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NOTICE TO READERS: Effective 1 October, the processing indicators appearing in brackets at the start of each item in this publication will be changed. All new indicators will begin with "FBIS" to make the material more easily identifiable. Some will also indicate whether the item has been translated from the vernacular or transcribed from English.

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Israeli Delegation Leaves for Bahrain Meeting

NC2809161894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 28 Sep (MENA)—An Israeli environmental delegation led by Israeli Foreign Ministry Deputy Director General Yosi Gal left Cairo for Manama this afternoon to attend meetings of the Environment Committee in Bahrain.

The Israeli delegation arrived in Cairo yesterday evening en route to Bahrain to participate in the Environment Committee of the multilateral peace talks.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Report Views Effects of Boycott on Israel

NC2909101094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0830 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Sep (MENA)—A report by the Arab League's Arab Boycott of Israel Bureau [ABIB] has said that the Israeli economy has suffered numerous losses since the early 1950s as a result of the Arab boycott which the Israelis themselves estimate at around $40 billion.

The report added that Israel's rate of national growth product would have risen by three percent a year had it not been for the Arab boycott of Israeli companies and goods. Additionally, Israel lost investments estimated at $37 billion between 1950 and 1992. The report noted that the Arab boycott of Israel has been very effective and has compelled it to import from "distant sources" due to its dire need for raw materials—especially petroleum, minerals, metals, and chemicals—and to the scarcity of underground resources in the occupied Palestinian territories. This in turn increased the prices of its manufactured goods in comparison with the prices of similar products in other countries.

The ABIB report, which was submitted to the recent meeting of the Arab League Council, reviewed the aspects of the Israeli economy that set it apart from the economies of other countries, the most important of which is the limited amount of Israeli manpower which led to Israel's dependence on the Arab citizens living in the 1948 territories, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. Referring to the critical situation that Israel recently found itself in when Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin closed the borders with the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the report said that this is clear evidence of the importance of the Arab workers' role in Israeli economic sectors and of the predicament that the Israeli companies and establishments found themselves in as a result of this measure.

The ABIB report then viewed the means that Israel has followed to confront its economic problems. These include U.S. aid, the contributions made by Jewish companies and establishments operating in the United States that exploit the loophole in U.S. law that exempts contributions from taxes, and the contributions imposed on every Jew in the world.

The report went on to say: Despite these means, the Israeli economy is suffering from chronic illness caused basically by the fact that its infrastructure is closely linked to its aggressive nature. It added that the most prominent of these illnesses is its huge debts, which reached $24.5 billion in 1992, and noted that this is at odds with the meager aid given to Israel despite its small size. [sentence as received] It also noted that the acceptable explanation for this anomaly lies in the nature of the huge military expenditures, which alone reach $3 billion annually, in addition to the expenditures on emigrants, their settlement, and the creation of job opportunities that suit their qualifications. It added that Israel is seeking to increase its exports and reduce its imports in order to reduce the deficit in its trade balance and its huge debts despite the great volume of aid that the Israeli economy is receiving and which plays a major role in paying off Israel's foreign debts.

ABIB pointed out that the most important and salient characteristic of the Israeli economy is its reliance on exports of various types of manufactured commodities—precious metals, security industries products, and food industries products—and on imports of raw materials for these industries from their sources in view of Israel's severe shortage of underground resources. Also, the Israeli economy depends on benefits from the numerous customs facilities offered by the United States in accordance with the GATT agreement of 1985 and the European Market second agreement of 1975. These agreements offer the Israeli economy privileges despite the ever-increasing trade deficit which has gone out of control since the 1980s, with the gap increasing year after year. The report noted in this respect that the Israel's trade deficit totaled $3.5 billion in 1990; rose to $5.2 billion in 1991, to $6.3 billion in 1992, and reached $7 billion in 1993.

International experts and economists noted that the deficit in the trade balance is caused by tremendous military expenditures, part of which goes to development of military industries. [passage indistinct] particularly as it entered the international European and U.S. markets, consequently weakening marketing. Experts said that the Arab economic boycott of Israel and solidarity of numerous countries in East Europe and of most Third World countries contributed to a great extent to dealing a blow to the Israeli trade balance. This boycott deprived the Israeli economy of very big neighboring markets and, in solidarity the Arab countries, Third World countries refrained from providing it with much-needed raw materials. In addition, international companies refrained from signing trade deals with Israel due to the Arab boycott, causing reduced foreign investments in Israel.

The ABIB report reviewed the main lines of the Israeli economic trends for 1994 which reflect the extent of Israeli attention to the economic aspects of the peace process. These trends show the capability of covering the costs of redeploying the Israeli forces in the occupied territories and of investing and competing in the expected economic activities in the self-rule areas. The report noted that the Israeli economic trends hope to maintain the level of economic performance inside the rates achieved in 1993, particularly with regard to inflation, unemployment, the trade balance, and encouraging private sector investors to direct their activity toward the occupied areas with the aim of keeping the self-rule area under Israeli economic domination. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Says Positions of Israel, Syria Closer

LD2809162494 Madrid TVE Internacional Television in Spanish 1400 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] This morning Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian autonomous community and leader of the PLO, arrived in Madrid, where he will participate in meetings being held parallel to the summit of the International Monetary Fund. 'Arafat said that the peace process is continuing despite the obstacles which still exist. The Palestinian leader will have a meeting this afternoon/evening with Felipe Gonzalez, and tomorrow he will be received by the king. Yesterday, in an exclusive interview granted to Spanish Television prior to his visit, 'Arafat expressed his thanks for the Principe de Asturias Prize and the material support Spain has given for the development of the Palestinian autonomous community.

[Begin recording; 'Arafat speaks in English with superimposed Spanish translation] I would like to thank the people from my heart for this prize, and I promise to carry on fighting for the continuation of the peace process in the Middle East. We shall never forget the full support, including the financial support, which Spain has given us.

[Unidentified correspondent] Have the donor states sent the money which they have promised you so far?

['Arafat] Not yet, but we are continuing to ask, continuing to negotiate.

[Correspondent] What is the final objective of this process?

['Arafat] To establish our independent state with its capital in Jerusalem. I said the other day that we have to work hard together with the Israelis, conscientiously, in order to avoid regrettable events on one side or the other, and to maintain the peace process, the peace of the brave, and I believe we shall be able to do it.

[Correspondent] What would happen if Israel and Syria do not manage to reach an agreement?

['Arafat] No, no, I do not think that is going to happen. According to reports I have from both sides, the positions are drawing closer to each other, and I believe that they are nearer to reaching an agreement, **and we are not looking only for Syria, but also for Lebanon**. [passage in bold spoken in English] [end recording]

Quray' Reacts to Rabin Decision on Settlement-Building

JN2809174994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Interview with Ahmad Quray', "minister of trade and economy" in the Palestinian Authority, by correspondent Ahmad Zaki; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Zaki] Mr. Ahmad Quray', minister of trade and economy in the PNA [Palestinian National Authority] good evening.

[Quray'] You are welcome.

[Zaki] What is the Palestinian stand vis-a-vis Rabin's decision to expand the settlements of Alfey Menashe and Giv'at Tal in Qalqilyah area and to build another 1,000 housing units in them?

[Quray'] First, settlement-building is an aggressive and illegitimate process; this conflicts with any move toward peace. We agreed to postpone discussing the fate of settlements for two years. We realize that, ultimately, these settlements should be removed. The Israeli Government's decision—which comes following the implementation of the peace agreement—to expand settlements, build housing units, or ask settlers to reside in these settlements, is considered a clear violation of the agreement and the entire peace process. Settlement-building is a serious and aggressive act that can in no way be in harmony with the intention to achieve a just and lasting peace. Thus, this act is categorically rejected and must be raised at the highest levels.

[Zaki] What will the Palestinians do in response to this?

[Quray'] We should first discuss this with the Israeli Government at the highest levels and within the framework of the various specialized committees. We should not be lenient in this.

[Zaki] Thank you, brother Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'].

[Quray'] Thank you.

PNC's al-Za'nun Cited on Charter Amendment Opposition

JN2809175894 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Salim al-Za'nun, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council [PNC], has ruled out the convening of the council to amend the National Charter at the present time. Al-Za'nun said that the PLO's bylaws stipulate that any such session should be convened in Jerusalem or

Gaza, adding that there is large-scale opposition to the amendment of the Palestinian National Charter in the Palestinian arena in light of the current circumstances.

Israel Reportedly Permits Return of PNC's al-Sa'ih

TA2809112794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Jamil al-Tarifi, a member of the Palestinian coordinating committee, said that Israel has permitted the return of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih, the head of the Palestine National Council [PNC], to Gaza and Jericho. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that this matter was discussed at the latest meeting between Yitzhaq Rabin and Yasir 'Arafat, but that the shaykh's return to East Jerusalem has still not been allowed. [passage omitted]

Tahbub Interviewed on Jordanian Decision on Awqaf

JN2809113994 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Interview with Shaykh Hasan Tahbub, minister of Awqaf and Religious Affairs in the Palestinian Authority, by correspondent Ahmad Zaki on 28 September; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Zaki] Shaykh Hasan Tahbub, PNA [Palestinian National Authority] Awqaf and Religious Affairs minister, good morning.

[Tahbub] Good morning to you.

[Zaki] What do you have to say about Jordan's decision to sever legal ties with the religious institutions in the West Bank?

[Tahbub] Actually, I expected this decision because it is a step in the right direction. It is natural for the PNA to be responsible for awqaf [Islamic endowments] in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the area of the PNA. I see nothing strange about this. I view this as a positive step in the right direction.

[Zaki] Will you also discuss the disengagement with the institutions in Jerusalem with the Jordanian officials ?

[Tahbub] The question of Jerusalem will be discussed at the level of the PNA and the Jordanian Government at future meetings, God willing. We must cooperate and reach results that will satisfy all parties.

[Zaki] Does this mean that Jordan's nonseverance of its ties with the institutions in Jerusalem has something to do with the Washington Declaration which gave Jordan a special status with respect to the religious institutions in Jerusalem?

[Tahbub] No. I do not believe this has anything to do with the Washington Declaration because Israel has no right to delegate powers concerning shrines in Jerusalem to any party. The Palestinians, the Muslims, and the Arabs are those who have such a right. After attaining results with respect to the political future of Jerusalem, and after Arab, Islamic, and Palestinian sovereignty is restored over it, then the question of the shrines can be discussed because all Muslims throughout the world are interested in these shrines.

[Zaki] Did the Jordanian side inform you about this decision?

[Tahbub] No. We were not informed about it. Personally, I expected it, as it is only natural and the right thing to do.

[Zaki] Will there be visits to the Jordanian capital to discuss the remaining outstanding issues dealing with religious institutions?

[Tahbub] I believe meetings will be held at a political level with a PNA delegation to discuss religious issues and others concerning daily life.

[Zaki] We thank Shaykh Hasan Tahbub, PNA Awqaf and Religious affairs minister.

Results of Rabin-'Arafat 25 Sep Summit Viewed

TA2809195394 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 Sep 94 p 13

[Editorial: "A New Summit—Between Agreements and Intentions"]

[Text] Undoubtedly, the summit meeting held yesterday between President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin constitutes another important step within context of the efforts aimed at overcoming the obstacles to implementing the Oslo and Cairo agreements. These efforts also seek to accelerate the search for solutions to many outstanding problems as well as those that cannot be delayed and whose accumulation fosters a negative climate in the peace process.

Naturally, holding the meeting at this level affirms the two sides' interest to advance the process through serious and intensive talks covering all points of contention as well as pending issues, foremost of which is the holding of Palestinian general elections, that must be preceded by redeployment of Israeli forces in the West Bank, expansion of the National Authority's area, and assumption of more powers. Other pending issues are those of the prisoners, border crossings, and the Jericho area's size.

From this premise, the agreement between 'Arafat and Rabin to begin the talks in the various committees from next Monday [3 October], setting a one-month deadline for these committees to make progress in resolving existing differences, and agreeing to hold a new summit after this deadline definitely constitutes an important development that underlines the two sides' awareness of the importance to resolve differences and their eagerness to move forward.

Evidently, agreements alone do not suffice if positive intentions are not reflected and translated into new steps and positions during the upcoming talks. Everyone knows that the two sides have signed detailed agreements that cover almost all existing points of contention, but what obstructs implementation are the essence of intentions, the ability to take bold steps, and how to resolve vacillation between a bygone era and the requirements and dues of peace.

Everyone is aware that Israel's positions were behind the failure to implement many articles of the signed agreements and behind the delay in implementing other articles. These positions were raised under various slogans, foremost of which are those relating to the settlers' security or those aiming to eradicate any symbols of sovereignty for the Palestinian national entity. This is what impeded implementation of the agreements according to the original time frames.

In short, if the talk today revolves around serious interest in making progress and in deeply realizing the suspension, delay, and negative effects caused by previous positions, then this definitely represents some progress that can be translated and whose positive effects reflected on the ground. This is provided that during the upcoming talks Israel were to display positions that might remove various obstacles and affirm its commitments to making peace with the Palestinian people and the harmony of its intentions with any agreements that will be reached.

Official Says PFLP Not To Participate in Elections

TA2809161594 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 25 Sep 94 p 16

[Text] In an exclusive interview with AL-QUDS, Abu-'Ali Nasir, member of the Central Committee of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], stressed that the PFLP will not participate in any elections that have a political content, are connected with the Oslo agreement, or are a consequence of that agreement. He said that the talks under way now between Palestinian factions are over municipal and village council elections.

Nasir welcomed a dialogue with the Palestinian Authority but only after the topic of the dialogue and its aim are determined. He emphasized that it is not possible to reach a common denominator between the Oslo agreement and the national liberation program.

PFLP Calls For Dissolving Appointed Municipal Councils

TA2809185294 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Sep 94 p 6

[By special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[Excerpts] Bethlehem—In a statement that it distributed yesterday in the occupied territories, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] called for dissolving the municipal councils appointed in Gaza, Nabulus, and Hebron. It considered appointment as infringing upon the right of the residents to choose their representatives in direct, free, and democratic elections. [passage omitted]

The statement also called on the Palestinian Authority [PA] to cease what it described as "undemocratic practices" and stop harassing and detaining Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Islamic Jihad, and Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine mujahidin and strugglers, as happened in Gaza a while ago. Moreover, the statement urged the PA to adhere to democracy as the basis for organizing Palestinian society and as the only option for overcoming social and political problems and crises.

Minister Comments on Decision To Finance Religious Sites

MM2809114194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih: "Palestinian Minister: No Need To Consult Jordan Regarding Our Authority Over the Holy Places"]

[Excerpts] London—Palestinian Awqaf Minister Shaykh Hasan Tahbub has stated that the decision of the [Palestinian] National Authority [PNA] to take over the duties of financing the religious and holy places in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and Jerusalem was made in isolation from Jordan. In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Shaykh Tahbub said that the PNA "did not consult Jordan because we see no need for consultation on this matter." He asked: "Did Jordan's director of the Awqaf Department consult us when he declared that he would not give up religious custody of Jerusalem?"

A Higher Islamic Committee official in Jerusalem has declined comment on the PNA decision. Committee Member 'Abd-al-'Azim Sahlab told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "We prefer not to comment at this state because that would create more sensitivities." [passage omitted]

The PNA made the decision to finance the holy places at its weekly meeting held under Yasir 'Arafat in Gaza the day before yesterday. Palestinian officials say that the PNA will, as of next October, begin to administer and finance the Awqaf Department, which has about 2,000 employees.

Jordan says that it is responsible for the maintenance and administration of the holy places. Israel recognized that role for the first time last July, when the two countries signed a peace declaration. Commenting on that, Shaykh Tahbub said: "We do not permit Israel to assume responsibility for the distribution of powers and responsibilities in this connection."

The Palestinian decision is expected to increase the tension between Amman and the PNA. In reply to a question, Shaykh Tahbub said: "We made that decision without emotion, and we did not make that decision to upset anybody. We hope that everyone will understand that that is one of our rights. We are confident that all our brothers will understand our position." Asked what sources the PNA would depend on for the financing, particularly as it has serious financial problems hampering many of its projects in the autonomy areas, he replied: "We have been promised aid and we rely on God." Asked if his ministry would be responsible for the appointment of the mufti of Jerusalem, bearing in mind that Shaykh Sulayman al-Ja'bari was appointed mufti of Jerusalem by Jordan about two years ago, he replied: "the PNA will be responsible for the Awqaf Department and Islamic Committee appointments."

It should be noted that Shaykh al-Ja'bari, the mufti of Jerusalem, is, according to a statement made to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT by his son 'Umar, is suffering from kidney and heart problems and has been in the intensive care unit at the Hadasa hospital in 'Ayn Karim.

Islamic Movement Leader Views Elections

TA2809180794 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
28 Sep 94 p 16

[Report by Mustafa al-Sawwaf]

[Text] Gaza—A responsible source in the Gaza Strip's Islamic Movement has denied what has been reported by some news media about the movement's intention to participate in the self-rule council elections, slated to be held in the areas of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA].

Ahmad Bahr, one of the Islamic Movement's most prominent Gaza Strip leaders, stressed that the movement has determined in advance the kind of elections in which it can participate, namely, legislative elections with the participation of Palestinians from the inside and outside for choosing a Palestinian leadership.

Bahr added that Palestinians abroad must participate in the elections, whether in terms of voting or being nominated, because this is their legitimate right and because diaspora Palestinians have begun to sense some sort of a break in ties with their brethern who are inside. Their participation in the elections will restore Palestinian cohesion between the inside and outside.

Bahr emphasized that the Islamic Movement supports any dialogue that serves the Palestinian people's interest. He added that the meetings between the PNA and the Islamic Movement focused and continue to focus on problems of daily life. He said that it is possible to develop and expand these meetings if the PNA changes its positions.

Bahr noted that the Islamic Movement is still extensively studying the issue of setting up a political party and that an announcement about that continues to hinge on choosing the appropriate date for doing so, especially as more time is needed for the idea to mature and be finalized. He stressed that there are no differences in the ranks of the Islamic Movement about forming a party.

Palestinian Military Aide on Russian Arms Deal

MM2709150994 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
27 Sep 94 p 6

[Report by Muhammad 'Allam: "Palestinian Military Commander Talks to AL-HAYAH About Palestinian-Russian Deal"]

[Excerpts] Cairo, Rafah, AL-HAYAH—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Cairo within the next two days to hold talks with President Husni Mubarak and to consult on the issues to be addressed at the negotiations with the Israelis in Cairo next Monday [3 October], especially the arrangements for the elections and the early transfer of powers in the West Bank. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Wahid 'Abd-al-Hayy, a Palestinian security commander and commander of the 'Ayn Jalut forces, has spoken to AL-HAYAH about the first arms deal the [Palestinian] National Authority has signed with an arms-exporting state.

'Abd-al-Wahid arrived in Cairo the day before yesterday from Moscow, where he signed the first bilateral agreement under which the Russian Government is to supply the authority with various types of weapons to bolster the security forces' capabilities in the self-rule areas.

'Abd-al-Wahid said: Russia "will ship 45 armored vehicles, each equipped with two guns, to an Egyptian port soon for transportation overland to Gaza." He pointed out that Russian President Boris Yeltsin promised during 'Arafat's visit to Moscow a few months ago to supply 100 armored vehicles.

He added that the agreement includes also equipment, spare parts, and ammunition. He pointed out that while in Moscow the Palestinian military delegation visited a number of plants manufacturing heavy and light weapons.

On the security situation in Gaza, he said that the Palestinian president's meeting with Hamas leaders is "confirmation that all groups of the Palestinian people reject infighting and consider Palestinian blood a red line which cannot be crossed." He stressed that "the people in Gaza will disappoint those banking on civil war and expecting it to take place." [passage omitted]

Algeria

Security Forces Kill 5 'Terrorists'

LD2809193394 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Five terrorists were killed by the security forces between Friday and Monday, according to a communique from these services. Two of them—presumed to be the kidnappers of a citizen—were killed in Bordj el Kifan. Several weapons were seized.

Commission Set Up on Teaching of Berber

LD2909093494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0600 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] The head of government's press service has announced in a communique that a national commission entrusted with the teaching of Thamazighth has just been set up. The task of this new institutional tool, chaired by the head of government, is to prepare and organize the first national conference on Thamazighth, and to make proposals to the government on all the administrative, technical, and pedagogical measures required to provide the optimum conditions for the introduction of Thamazighth into the education system, the communique says.

FIS Claims Intellectuals Tortured, Killed

MM2909112594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Sep 94 p 4

[Names as transliterated]

[Text] London, AL-HAYAH—A statement issued by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] Parliamentary Mission (headed by Anour Haddam) cited "reliable" information from inside Algeria about murder and torture operations being carried out by the Algerian Army's "Special Forces" against Islamic intellectuals.

The statement, of which AL-HAYAH has received a copy, stressed that arrests and torture have intensified since May and June. The statement cited as an example the names of prominent figures in the academic field. They include Professor M. Boudjelkha (Mathematics Institute, Bab Ezzouar University in the capital), Prof. M. Moulay (the institute's director, who was elected a member of parliament; he was also head of the delegation representing the FIS in the negotiations with the Algerian Army at the beginning of the crisis), and Dr. Lamdjadani (director of the prevention department at the Health Ministry).

The statement said that Prof. Moulay explained in detail in a letter dated 27 July 1994 the terror he suffered during the 30 days he spent in a police center in Chatou Nouf. It said that Moulay is currently in Lahrech prison in the capital. The statement also said that Dr. Lamdjadani too explained in a letter his suffering at the hands of the security forces during his 60-day detention in the main police center in the capital. The statement said that the two persons "were forced to sign confessions made as a result of torture." The statement said that another two Islamic intellectuals were abducted in the same period from a number of areas in Algeria.

The statement cited the case of Professors F. Bouchlagum and A. Boulgrass of the physics department at Blida University. It said that they were arrested 3 June, and that members of Bouchlagum's family went to the court on the date set for his case (20 September), but they did not find him. It added that they were told by the detainee's colleagues that he had been moved to the Chatou Nouf center. But when they went to that center to inquire about their relative, they were told that the professor's body had been moved to the Boulugen morgue (in the capital).

The statement stressed that the cases of these professors are a small proportion of thousands of other cases. The statement said that the call for dialogue and reconciliation means nothing unless it is coupled with the prisoners' release, a halt to these practices, and the "neutralization" of the officials responsible for them. The statement demanded "proof" of the authorities' intention to resolve the crisis. It also demanded that the behavior of those advocating a "security solution" be watched.

The statement stressed that, despite the practices against it, the FIS continues to work to bring about peaceful change in the country. And that it entered the 1991 elections to prove its desire to adopt the peaceful option. It added that the FIS is committed to working to find a solution to the crisis in the country based on what was expressed in the letters which the FIS leadership sent to President Zeroual in August and September.

RCD Leader Rejects Policy of Dialogue

LD2809195794 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] As we all know, the national dialogue will resume in the form of bilateral meetings. At their initiative, the representatives of the presidency of state met a delegation of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS] today, according to a communique from the state's presidency.

This meeting enabled the two sides to exchange views on the prospect of the participation of the FFS in the national dialogue at a bilateral level that would led to multilateral meetings. The representatives of the state's presidency took this opportunity to explain to the FFS the approach suggested by President Liamine Zeroual to promote dialogue, and the framework and principles he has defined. As for the FFS representatives, they explained their conception of the national dialogue and the way in which it would succeed. The two sides agreed to meet again.

As for the RCD, the Rally for Culture and Democracy, it said that it has never severed contacts with the presidency. Said Sadi [RCD leader] was contacted by Widad Chelihi this morning:

[Begin Sadi recording] What are pretentiously called bilateral meetings are mere contacts between political parties and the state. The RCD has never refused to meet the representatives of the state at any level and this has always been our approach. On the other hand, the approach of dialogue as undertaken so far and which, in our view, is tantamount to abandonment of principle and surrender, has changed. But basically nothing has changed, the national dialogue approach means surrender. [end recording]

Haddam: Opposition Must Respect Majority Rule

BR2809142994 Copenhagen INFORMATION in Danish 24-25 Sep 94 p 3

[Interview with Anouar Haddam, Islamic Salvation Front spokesman, by Charlotte Aagaard; place and date not given: "Islamic Salvation Front Not Looking For Confrontation With the West"—passages in italics are INFORMATION notes]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted]**A Political Solution**

[Aagaard] Is President Zeroual's new willingness to start a dialogue with FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] because the military is at the point of losing control over the country?

[Haddam] We do not recognize Algeria as having either a government or a legitimate military leadership at present. It is General Zeroual and his coterie who are prepared to enter into dialogue. We have welcomed the initiative and would urge the international community to press for the continuation of the dialogue. Our freedom fighters' (FIS' armed wing AIS—INFORMATION editor's note) aim was not to liberate part of Algeria. The aim of the armed struggle has solely been to strike at the security forces. And this appears to have succeeded. That is why Zeroual now wants to negotiate.

FIS has always thought that the Algerian crisis is a political one. Therefore it needs a political solution. But the problem is that the members of the 1992 coup until now have not considered the situation that way. [Aagaard] Will you be able to negotiate a solution with the present leadership? [Haddam] Time will tell. Liamine Zeroual apparently took no part in the 1992 coup, but he is not the only figure on the stage. Those who mounted the 1992 coup are still around, and whether or not Zeroual will turn out to be the stronger, only time will tell. There is a power struggle going on inside the military, and we, of course, hope that the supporters of dialogue will win.

[Aagaard] Can you ensure that the armed groups are willing to observe a cease-fire?

[Haddam] It is not a question of controlling the armed groups. The Islamic resistance movement's raison d'etre is to win back the population's right to freely elect a government. That is the sole purpose of the armed struggle. If all armed groups are included in the decision-making process, they will undoubtedly accept a cease-fire.

Free Elections

[Aagaard] What might be a possible compromise?

[Haddam] I am not sure whether it can be called a compromise at all. If we really want a stable government, then the current leadership must accept some basic principles: first and foremost, that of political power flowing from the people's will.

[Aagaard] Does this mean free and democratic elections?

[Haddam] Yes, of course. Unless the present leadership accepts this, I cannot see any possible agreement. If they accept elections, this also means that the military must return to the barracks. At the moment we are trying to get them to understand this, but it is not easy.

[Aagaard] Could a compromise entail Zeroual remaining president?

[Haddam] No. The president must also be elected by the people, but how and when exactly this is to take place must be a topic of negotiation. FIS top leader Abassi Madani has suggested on his own initiative that Zeroual could be president. But we want all the leaders of FIS and of the armed groups to have the opportunity of meeting and talking so that we get a broad basis for our proposals.

At the moment, Abassi Madani and his right-hand man, charismatic Ali Belhadj, are under house arrest, and most of the rest of FIS' political leaders are either in exile or in jail.

[Haddam] Madani has proposed a neutral interim government, which is to prepare for elections and run the country until we have a legitimate government. This could be a solution.

[Aagaard] You are, of course, anticipating winning the elections?

[Haddam] Irrespective of who wins, everyone must respect them. We respect the principles of free elections, a multiparty system, and the people's right to change their government if they are not satisfied with it. We have done this from the start, and still do.

Fear in the West

[Aagaard] Many people in the West are afraid of an Islamic takeover in Algeria. Is France, for example, justified in declaring war on FIS?

[Haddam] Unfortunately, some French political circles still consider France a colonial power. These are the people who are leading France into confrontation instead of accepting that great changes have taken place in the Middle East. (Haddam is referring, among others, to Gaullist Interior Minister Charles Pasqua.)

[Haddam] All we are asking is to have the same rights as other peoples across the world; the right to freely elect our government and the right to live in accordance with our culture.

[Aagaard] Will Western interests in Algeria be jeopardized?

[Haddam] We desire a genuine and unbiased coexistence and refuse any sort of exploitation. Anyone who examines the balance in Algeria's trade with France will know what we are talking about.

[Aagaard] Future trade is to take place, then, on equal terms?

[Haddam] Yes. And we want to have the right to extend our trade to more countries. The Spanish, the British, and the Americans have understood this. And as far as France is concerned, not everyone has chosen the path of confrontation, either.

[Aagaard] Is France right in fearing a wave of refugees, if you come to power?

[Haddam] I do not believe that will happen. Of course, there will be some who flee on account of anti-FIS propaganda. But the blame for this lies with those who have created the current political climate. We are more concerned about being unable to live up to the great expectations held by all the Algerians who want to come home the day after an Islamic state is set up.

Democratic Guarantee

[Aagaard] Can you guarantee that the secular opposition will be able to practice its political convictions freely?

[Haddam] Of course. What we are experiencing now is the opposite situation, where these people are trying to impose their Western lifestyle on the majority. We have said that Algeria is open to all Algerians, and to all Algeria's friends, irrespective of their belief or political convictions. So long as they just respect the principle of majority rule.

Anouar Haddam rejects all accusations that FIS is undemocratic, describing them as attempts to justify the military coup in 1992.

[Haddam] These are completely unfounded accusations. As everybody knows, we have never held power. Regardless of what our critics say, nothing can justify the terror and institutionalized torture used today by the Algerian military regime. Algeria must be one of the only places in the world where so-called intellectuals encourage the Army to intervene against the people.

According to Amnesty International [AI], thousands of Islamists have been jailed without trial or on the basis of trials considered by AI to be unfair. The security forces have carried out summary executions and several hundreds have been sentenced to death by military courts with no right of appeal.

[Aagaard] Does this mean that you are defending the many killings and attempted killings of leading intellectuals?

[Haddam] No, of course not. We have distanced ourselves, all along, from attacks against those who do not take part in, lead, or are party to the security forces' operations. We can guarantee that, after reestablishing stability in Algeria, we will not interfere in the functioning of the legal system. All crimes committed now will one day be tried in court. And people will realize who have been behind the crimes.

[Aagaard] So, you are expecting a legal battle with those responsible for today's human rights violations, for example?

[Haddam] That will be up to the legal system. The government will then have the opportunity to call for an amnesty afterwards. All we want is to get our country on an even keel again. It is not up to us to encourage legal battles. That is the task of the legal system. We think that the legislative, judicial, and executive powers must be separated in an Islamic state to avoid a dictatorial or theocratic system. As an elected member of parliament I will vote for an amnesty. I know that this is no minority view. We want to forget the past and start afresh.

Article Views Reasons for Singer's Kidnapping

BR2809145294 Paris LIBERATION in French 28 Sep 94 p 2

[Article by Jacques Amalric: "The Obstructers"]

[Text] Who really did the kidnapping? With his refusal to compromise, his talent, and above his popularity, he was as much a thorn in the side of the corrupt ruling Jacobins and their armed wing, military security, as he was for the illuminated Islamic fundamentalist killers. In defiance of both sides he recently stated: "I am not an Arab and I am not a Muslim."

It is doubtless no coincidence that he was kidnapped while a "dialogue" was being worked out in the form of a deal between the Algerian authorities and the less extreme Islamic fundamentalists. This kind of exercise, which only takes into account the arguments of the strong, is often enveloped in the rather hypocritical concern for preserving national unity. In other words, true democrats will hardly find anything there to satisfy them, and neither will bitter defenders of a minority identity.

A number of oversimplifications have been written and pronounced on the subject of Kabylia which has constantly fought for the "center" to accept its individual characteristics, starting with its language. This region is certainly not the haven of peace, modernity, progressiveness, and democracy that it sometimes claims to be. Nevertheless, thanks to an extremely conservative but truly communal social structure, Kabylia has for some time been a bastion against the authoritarian and uniform practices of the single party National Liberation Front [FLN] and has evaded, better than the other regions of the country, what we can only call the "beggaring" of society.

Yesterday it was the Kabyls who were the obstructers. Today they are more obstructive than ever: For the Islamic killers playing total war and who have been trying for months now to impose their reign of terror on this insolent region; and for the "eradicators" of all beliefs who have old scores to settle with these protesters but who are desperately seeking temporary allies to block any attempt at finding a compromise. There is no guarantee that, exposed as they are to such provocation, the Kabyls will be able to avoid the trap that is being set for them in the medium term, namely of becoming an enclosed radical ethnic group which tomorrow will be the target of the two camps which are currently at each others' throats.

Socialist Leader Voices Suspicions of FIS

MM2909123094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Sep 94 p 1

[Telephone interview with Hocine Ait-Ahmed, secretary general of the Algerian Socialist Forces, in Lausanne by Randah Taqiyy-al-Din in Paris; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Taqiyy-al-Din] You said once that you would not engage in a dialogue with the authorities until all political prisoners, including the FIS leaders, were released. They have now been released from prison. Why are you refusing to engage in a dialogue with the authorities?

[Ait-Ahmed] We declared our position two and a half years ago. We are for a comprehensive solution that restores security and peace and under which all partners, including the Islamists, contribute to containing violence and setting up democratic institutions for the transitional period. This is our comprehensive program for a way out of the crisis. The prior condition for a solution was to take general measures to calm the situation, to release the detainees, to restore freedoms, and to establish political openness in order to hold a real dialogue in which the people participate. We have always maintained this position. Two months ago were were engaged in a bilateral dialogue with the regime. Three members from the Socialist Forces Front [SFF] held weekly talks with three representatives from the regime, but nothing was achieved. Then the regime suddenly announced an official dialogue, but we could not participate with the regime because we did not know its terms. Besides, it had been prepared by one party, and the regime refused to respond to our party's proposals.

[Taqiyy-al-Din] And what are your party's proposals?

[Ait-Ahmed] To set up transitional institutions as a step toward democracy. The regime told us that we could present these proposals at the official public meeting. But it had already set up a transitional national council—an institution created by the regime but worth nothing and without credibility among the people. While we proposed the formation of a master national conference, along the lines of what happened in South Africa, in order to establish a new legitimacy encompassing the various forces representing the Algerian people, including representatives of the fundamentalist parties. I am not talking about the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS], since we are now very cautious of it. Although we persistently demanded the release of its prisoners, it has shown no gratitude. When the FIS talks about a dialogue, it says that it wants a dialogue with the regime. It has never spoken of the need to include the other political parties in this dialogue. A delegation from our party (SFF) met with FIS members three weeks ago. FIS members saluted the SFF's work, but what they offered officially was their own idea for dialogue, namely a limited dialogue without any guarantee regarding a democratic future for the country. We are now very cautious of the FIS. And we have not spoken about the FIS since that time. But we mention only the moderate tendencies among Islamists. We do not know now who represents the FIS. And today we see violent acts in the Berber area, like the abduction of women and murders. We do not know who is carrying out these acts. Two prominent strugglers from our party were killed yesterday. The security situation has caused the political situation to diminish. Nevertheless we continue to insist on a peaceful solution that includes participation by moderate Islamists. But we are not talking about the FIS. [passage omitted]

[Taqiyy-al-Din] When will you return to Algeria?

[Ait-Ahmed] My return is linked to the political conditions. I will not return except when our conditions regarding democracy are met. And the security question is fundamental for all the leaders of the parties, who are daily exposed to threats which must be curbed in a manner that provides a guarantee for those participating in the dialogue.

New French-Language Paper Published

LD2809211894 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Yesterday, 27 September, was the date of birth of a newspaper which I have in front of me. This is the first issue of it, LA TRIBUNE or, in Arabic, AL-MINBAR which is a daily in French dealing with issues of the hour on the national and international scene, in addition to social issues examined in depth and other investigations.

LA TRIBUNE is distinctive in that it devotes two pages to a lengthy social reportage on one of the peoples of the world in addition to economic analyses.

We wish this paper a long life.

Egypt

Mubarak To Attend Victory, Navy Day Celebration

NC2909095294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0925 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Alexandria, 29 Sep (MENA)—President of the Republic and High Commander of the Armed Forces Husni Mubarak will attend the Armed Forces celebration of the anniversary of October war victory and the Naval Forces day early next week.

The celebration will be attended by Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, the speakers of the People's Assembly and consultative Council, the deputy prime ministers, ministers, and senior state officials.

The president will be received on arrival by Defense Minister Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi and the armed forces senior commanders.

Musa Meets With Bosnian Leader, Israel's Peres

NC2909075794 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met last night with Bosnia President Alija Izetbegovic on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly [UNGA] sessions.

A responsible source stated that the meeting dealt with the reactions to the UN Security Council Resolution 942 which halted the sanctions imposed on Serbia and Montenegro. The two sides also discussed the steps that the international community has to take during the current UNGA session, especially the measures to ensure that the Belgrade government is abiding by its commitment to close the borders with the Bosnian areas under Serb control and to increase the number of border monitors to tighten control.

It is recalled that the Islamic Conference Organization's Liaison Committee will meet today to discuss the member states' actions during the current UNGA session.

Foreign Minister Musa also met with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres last night. They discussed the Middle East process, particularly the Palestinian-Israeli track and the means of overcoming the problem of financing the early transfer of authority to the Palestinian side.

A responsible source said that the talks between the Egyptian and Israeli sides also dealt with the next steps in the peace process, including completion of the Cairo agreement on implementing the Palestinian self-rule and the other steps for implementing the transitional phase. The source added that the two sides also discussed the issue of elections in the occupied territories. They also touched on the Syrian-Israeli track where the negotiations are being held in an improved political atmosphere. The two sides exchanged views seriously and in detail on various aspects of the Syrian-Israeli track. The source added that it became apparent that differences of views remain over a number of points and this requires more negotiations between the Syrian and Israeli sides.

'Amr Musa and Shim'on Peres also discussed other elements in the peace process, including security and economic development. 'Amr Musa explained that security can become stable only through equal commitment by all parties. He called on Israel to join the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

'Amr Musa also met with the Italian foreign minister and discussed with him cooperation among the Mediterranean Sea countries, the promotion of bilateral ties, and the new partnership agreement between the EU and Egypt.

Police Round Up 150 Suspects After Resort Attack

NC2909094394 Paris AFP in English 2259 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, Sept 28 (AFP)—Police detained for questioning 150 suspects in a massive security sweep around the Red Sea resort of al-Ghardaqah, a police official said, a day after a suspected Islamic militant shot dead a German and two Egyptians.

The official added that the round-up "had not yet enabled security services to obtain key information about the identity of the attacker and his accomplices," the official said.

Security force reinforcements were sent Wednesday [28 September] to the al-Ghardaqah region, 550 kilometers (340 miles) southeast of Cairo, where authorities extended the search for suspects to hills surrounding the town. [passage omitted]

Journalist Blasts CNN, U.S. 'Schizophrenia'

NC2809085594 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 22 Sep 94 pp 1, 3

[Article by Mahfuz al-Ansari: "Circumcision and Haiti's Invasion: Democracy, Morals, and the Media"]

[Text] Democracy cannot be imposed by force, particularly if this force is that of an armed invasion with paratroopers dropping from the sky and marines disembarking from cruisers and destroyers. Democracy cannot be imposed in this manner even if the invader is the United States, the world's hero and superpower.

Similarly, the traditions and social customs of nations cannot be abolished or proscribed by a decision or a law. They cannot be eliminated by things like "a sincere desire," an ill-intentioned denunciation, or a naive expression of disgust that consistently seeks sensational news and fishes in troubled waters. Traditions cannot be eliminated in this way even if the party denouncing this social custom, which becomes as strong as a creed through prolonged use, is a hegemonic juggernaut like CNN.

This roundabout introduction is an attempt to link two events that at first glance seem unconnected.

The first event is the story or "tragedy" fabricated by the U.S. television network CNN when it showed a film or video report about "female circumcision" in Egypt, portraying it as a blatant violation of human rights.

The second event is this ridiculous "drama" called the invasion of Haiti in the name of democracy and human rights to overthrow a dictatorship and restore the legally elected president, the "reverend" Aristide.

This "priest president" does not want to return to his post, to the presidential chair, but prefers to remain safe and tranquil in the "resort of political asylum."

Before the U.S. forces' landing, and even after their occupation of the country, posters were raised declaring: "Yes to democracy" and "No to the priest President Aristide, the president the United States wants to restore."

Believe us. Take our words seriously. No one in Egypt, Haiti, or anywhere wants to anger, arouse, or wound "refined U.S. sentiments" by traditions, customs, and "violently cruel" social phenomena such as the circumcision, which provoked anger to erupt among CNN officials, who turned it into an Egyptian "smear!" and an international story that traversed the satellites and entered every house in every city in every country, telling them of the "Egyptians' brutality," their violence, and cruelty even to themselves.

Egyptian customs, traditions, and norms angered the owners of CNN such that they decided to "stage an incursion" for which they mobilized their knights, technology, arts, and sciences and dispatched them everywhere via television sets, thus revealing to the whole world "the great scandal..." that occurred on the banks of the Nile, on Egyptian soil. Rendered sleepless by the incident, the CNN men recruited spies, go-betweens, bribers, and bribe takers and devised a clandestine scheme to seize the culprits, or at least one of them, flagrante delicto—a false case of flagrante delicto, as it turned out. The whole thing was "paid for," made up. That includes the village barber, the "victim," the girl's family, the infamous go-betweens, and agents. By divine power—the power of CNN—the crime the U.S. network perpetrated against Egypt was transformed into a crime perpetrated by Egypt and the Egyptian people against CNN. The Egyptians were seen as having committed a crime by preserving those customs and traditions that "bruise the delicacy" of the American people, bother the conscience of the television network's proprietors, and pollute the atmosphere of the "new world" with ancient mores.

Believe us, we mean no offense and intend to wound no one's feelings when some Egyptians preserve these customs and traditions.

Our consolation and defense is that our kinfolk preserved these customs in secret and practiced them within family bounds, secretly. They acted spontaneously without transgressing anyone's rights. They did not flaunt the act "in which they take pride," an act that others abhor. They just practiced their customs and celebrated their feasts within family bounds.

Unfortunately for us, it was the others who searched and dug things up. They violated people's honor, encroached on their secrets and private lives, revealed "what must remain hidden," and broke taboos. They transgressed society, the family, and the individual's right to privacy when they blatantly, evilly, and conspiratorially dealt with private affairs that must not be touched or approached, even if the bribery involved the family concerned.

Believe us and take our words seriously:

The Haitian people did not mean to annoy President Carter or disturb the American people. They did not seek to provoke sentiments of "disgust and nausea" among God's chosen people in the United States. When the boats carrying Haitian refugees sailed to U.S. shores, the "infiltrators" meant to disturb no one. They were simply fleeing poverty, disease, and ignorance, even death. They were looking for a crust and a job, for any means to stay alive. The big exodus from Haiti was not an escape from dictatorship and a quest for democracy. The issue was not that sophisticated. The people's demands were simple and modest. Democracy, as we said at first, is not made by a decision nor can it flourish in a backward society. Democracy cannot exist without institutions, organizations, unions, and political associations that are well versed in democracy.

I believe that President Clinton, CNN's owners, its news directors, and indeed the entire U.S. public with all its powers and institutions know that the invasion of Haiti was designed only to protect the feelings, eyes, and ears of the U.S. people—according to THE NEW YORK TIMES—from the sight of filth, ignorance, disease, and the black skin represented by the convoys of Haitian refugees looking for shelter on U.S. territory. The Clinton-led invasion, which turned into a disembarkation of occupying forces "in the name of liberty, human rights, and democracy" under the banner of "securing the U.S. border from the invasions and incursions of the Haitian neighbors," was really nothing more than that.

The U.S. President, the U.S. Army, and CNN might have the right to shield the U.S. people's delicate sentiments from "eyesores" and symbols of backwardness. But they do not have the right to clothe this manipulative action in a cloak of virtue and pretensions of human rights, democracy, and legality.

Although Catholicism is their official religion, the Haitian people's real creed is Voodoo. Voodoo is their religion, creed, custom, and norm.

Voodoo is a type of magic: It has its sorcerers, who might reach the rank of priest or higher, whose edicts cannot be disobeyed.

The famous CNN might have the right to look for an exciting story that will draw audiences but it does not have the right to violate privacy or reveal what must not be revealed, even if what it discloses is an ancient, worn-out custom. It does not have this right, especially if these customs represent no aggression against others and particularly if these customs are personal or family affairs carried out in line with tradition in a very confidential manner and connected with a person's "private parts." This is something that must not be revealed nor its participants identified.

Circumcision is an ancient Egyptian and African custom, which, over generations of continuous use, has grown into a creed or dominant social phenomenon. Firm traditions cannot be changed or eliminated merely by wishful thinking or a television program.

Social phenomena can be replaced only by nurturing new customs in people's hearts and minds through education and enlightenment.

Circumcision is not a smear on the Egyptian people but a social tradition that is still strong in some areas. What is a smear is when people who profess principles and values abandon them and discard their professional ethics.

I believe that what CNN did was a crime, because it violated the honor of an Egyptian family living according to its traditions, values, and norms and able to distinguish clearly between what is permissible and what is taboo.

CNN broadcast pictures of a girl's "private parts." In a conservative society consisting of families ruled by tradition, this is a crime.

What I wish to point out through this apparently arbitrary link between CNN's fabricated film about the circumcision of an Egyptian girl and the invasion, rather, occupation of Haiti is the U.S. political and media schizophrenia, which turns the facts upside down and uses double standards at the same time as carrying out the most serious acts and perpetrating the biggest crimes.

This schizophrenia turned an Egyptian social phenomenon, that of circumcision, which is already becoming a rarity, gradually becoming extinct, into a crime and a smear.

It turned invasion and occupation, with their attendant killing, destruction, humiliation, and meddling in other countries' affairs, all carried out without an acceptable reason, into an honorable humanitarian act.

If only these U.S. adventures ever succeeded.

If only the United States used the same method against the strong as it does against the weak.

It did this in Lebanon in 1983. Then its forces fled the scene.

It did it in Somalia and then sneaked out after making things worse.

It did it in Iran during the term of former President Jimmy Carter, today's mediator.

It did it against Grenada and Panama.

It failed every time. It did not try to intervene in similar cases in Nigeria and Mexico.

Every intervention by U.S. forces has failed. They leave no democracy behind them, improve no conditions, and establish no stability. In all of this CNN saw no scandal, crime, or aggression. The only aggression CNN saw was the "Egyptian aggression" represented by a girl's circumcision. What democracy, what professional ethics...

Journalist Urges 'Painful Strikes' Against Sudan

NC2609144094 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 24 Sep 94 pp 1, 8

[Article by Ibrahim Sa'dah: "Equality Is Required"]

[Excerpts] U.S. President Bill Clinton has ordered a military intervention in Haiti to depose its leaders and return its ousted president from exile to resume power. The U.S. President's decision received the approval of a Congress majority. The minority that opposed the decision argued that no United States interests are being threatened in Haiti. Hence the minority rejection of military intervention.

True, the United States did not use military force after Haiti's leaders fearfully agreed to leave the country. Also true is that the decision to use force will remain valid until these ruling dictators are exiled and the state is handed over to a democratic regime that respects the Haitian people's rights and humanity and that is acceptable to the big neighbor, the United States.

What the United States has done is nothing awkward or new. The U.S. forces have intervened 12 times to impose security and stability in numerous countries, near and far. Half of these countries were in Central America and the Caribbean Islands. [passage omitted]

The difference is very great between the "crime" of the Central American countries against the bigger neighbor—the United States—and the crime the ruling Sudanese regime is addicted to committing against its bigger neighbor Egypt and its people.

The Central American countries' crime is very trivial because these countries have posed no threat to the world's strongest and largest country. It was the United

States that most often posed a threat to these small, weak nations and fabricated unacceptable excuses and justifications to invade and occupy these countries to oust the governments that refuse to submit to it and impose alternative governments that obey Washington's orders without discussion or objection.

As I said, relations between Egypt and the current ruling regime in Sudan are different. Since this regime took power in Khartoum, it's only concern has been to harm its greater neighbor, to insist on creating crises, and harass its leadership deliberately and in a premeditated way, as the lawmen say.

The list of crimes committed by "his eminence shaykh" 'Umar al-Bashir and his colleague—"the messenger of divine providence to save humanity"—Hasan al-Turabi against the Egyptian people is long and shameful. The time is long overdue to punish the two men.

The Egyptian people have had enough of the Sudanese rulers' behavior. It is not possible, I believe, to keep silent toward such behavior or only expose the objectives of its rulers through the media. It is no longer useful to respond to the obscenity of al-Bashir and al-Turabi in editorials only because it has been proven that this kind of response gives them the excuse to be more rude.

Also, the continuation of the cold war between the two countries pleases al-Bashir and al-Turani and enables them to continue this war which does not represent any threat against their regime. What is more important is that the Egyptian leadership's silence and tolerance toward the Sudanese encroachment could be interpreted as weakness or impotence on the part of the Egyptian Government.

The Sudanese rulers have revealed their identity and the falsehood of their brotherhood through the crimes they have repeatedly committed against us. However, our government continues to demonstrate tolerance, ignore charges, and to reiterate our adherence to self-restraint regardless of what they have said or done against us.

All our governments have adopted the same stand on all the regimes that had done wrong to us on the pretext that we are the big brothers who should tolerate the blunders of younger brothers. The claim was that this has been and will continue to be our fate and Egypt's.

It is no secret that the Egyptian people have long ceased to surrender to that alleged fate. It is neither credible nor acceptable for the big brother to continue to endure insults, obscenities, and the deliberate humiliation of innocent Egyptians who were ill fated enough to work in that fraternal country and keep showing the same forgiveness and self-restraint and raise the same sacred slogan that says: This is the fate of big sister Egypt.

A quick look at what the Khartoum rulers have done to Egypt and its people must be followed by a collective call to tear down that humiliating and rejected slogan. It is impossible, I believe, for any people—no matter how kind and forgiving they might be—to see their sons being humiliated by the rulers of another state as much as the Egyptians were humiliated in Sudan.

These rulers expelled the [Egyptian] educational mission from Khartoum, after arresting and humiliating its members, stealing their property, and denying them their rights. They detained an Egyptian passenger plane at Khartoum airport. They detained an Egyptian ship and took its crew and passengers hostage. They also made an issue out of nothing when they claimed that the Egyptian city of Hala'ib was within Sudanese borders, that the Egyptians had no right to it, and that Sudan would not relinquish its ownership in spite of the Egyptians. Their most serious crime ever was that they assembled, harbored, and trained jobless people in terrorist crimes so that they could export them to Egypt later to commit their crimes and kill innocent Egyptians with the ultimate goal of shaking the pillars of the ruling regime.

Each of these crimes in itself is sufficient for the aggrieved state to declare war against the aggressor state and deal fierce blows to it, stopping only when the regime of these hooligans has been overthrown. The country of Haiti, for example, has not committed any crime against its big neighbor the United States. We have not heard of a single American national who has been mistreated by the Haitian authorities. We have not heard that the ruling regime in Haiti has even contemplated an attempt to detain an American plane or ship. We also have not heard that the Haitian Government was training mercenaries to undertake terrorist operations inside the United States. None of these crimes has been committed by the Haitian rulers against the United States. Nonetheless, the U.S. President decided to invade Haiti, overthrow its dictator regime, and restore authority to the former president who was elected by the people.

Saving the Haitians from the atrocities of dictatorship was enough for the U.S. President and people to justify the decision to invade Haiti and rescue its people from their corrupt and murderous rulers. I don't know what the U.S. Government would have done if the Haitian rulers had done to the United States what Sudan's rulers have done to Egypt?!

The Sudanese citizen is not inferior to the Haitian. If the big neighbor—the United States—has hastened to rescue the Haitian people from their corrupt rulers, it is the Sudanese people's right regarding their big neighbor, Egypt, to do what the United States has done and direct painful strikes onto the al-Bashir's and al-Turabi's regime until it is overthrown in order to save the fraternal Sudanese people, on the one hand, and take revenge for the dignity of the Egyptian people from the hooliganism of that regime, on the other.

We have had enough humiliation, collusion, and disrespect from those dwarfs. The fact that Egypt is destined to forgive the crimes and sins of younger brothers should not be understood by those people as weakness or inability.

Rabin's Decision on Settlement Criticized

NC2909080794 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 29 Sep (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR stresses that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent decision to build a new Jewish settlement in the occupied territories is a blatant violation of all the international resolutions that recognize the Palestinian people's ownership of these territories and also strongly shakes any confidence that Rabin hopes to gain, not only from the Arab world but also from the whole world public opinion.

The paper says in its editorial today: With this decision, Rabin has cast heavy doubts on his real intentions regarding peace and its benefits to all the peoples in the region and to the American people as well. It says it is surprised by Rabin's suspicious decision which has no legal or legitimate basis as it came only two days after the cordial meeting between him and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat at the Erez crossing point.

AL-AKHBAR then questions the reason for Rabin's insistence on placing a new obstacle on the road to peace which he himself helped prepare for when he agreed to the Gaza-Jericho agreement. It says that what the Israeli prime minister has done creates a wide gap between his alleged desire for comprehensive peace and the obstacles he is creating on the road to peace.

Libya

Talks Commence With France on UTA Incident

NC2809152994 Beirut AL-ANWAR in Arabic 22 Sep 94 pp 1, 15

[Text] Paris, AL-ANWAR—Well-informed diplomatic sources have disclosed that French investigative judge Jean-Louis Bruguiere, who is in charge of the file on the French UTA airliner that exploded in midair in September 1988, killing 171 passengers, has been holding behind-the-scenes talks with envoys of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi over Paris' accusations that Libyan officials perpetrated the incident. The Libyan envoys are attorney Mahmud Mursi and Libyan Ambassador in Tunis 'Abd-al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi. The periodic meetings are being held in Abu-Nuwas Hotel on the Tunisian island of Jarbah. This is a 4-star hotel frequented by Libyan officials in their travels between Libya and abroad.

It is known that al-'Ubaydi, who is close to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, is charged with handling the issues of the Lockerbie and UTA incidents following the accusations that Libya perpetrated the two incidents. Libya has denied the accusations, saying they are political and not criminal accusations in the absence of concrete evidence. Information shows that both Tripoli and Paris are eager not to burn all the bridges between them. Paris wants Tripoli to hand over the four defendants against whom Judge Bruguiere has issued international arrest warrants.

The periodic French-Libyan meetings in Jarbah are within the framework of France's attempt to persuade Libya to hand over the defendants to try them in France. This seems unlikely in light of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's recent stands rejecting the French and U.S. conditions.

Foreign Secretary Meets With Counterparts at UN

LD2809141194 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] The Brother Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation had tete-a-tete meetings yesterday evening in New York with brother Abdellatif Filali, Moroccan prime minister, and the foreign ministers of Tunisia, India, and Spain on the sidelines of the the 49th UN session.

These meetings dealt with the efforts being exerted to find a peaceful settlement for the so-called Lockerbie issue. They also examined the bilateral relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and those countries as well as the ways of consolidating them in all fields.

JANA: U.S. in 'Orgy of Killing' in Haiti

LD2809183994 Tripoli JANA in English 1750 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Unattributed report]

[Text] Tripoli, al-Fatih 74 [28 Sep] JAMAHARIYAH NEWS AGENCY—True to form, America is continuing to pursue its foreign policy objectives through an orgy of killing in Haiti. It has started killing Haitian when America's Army of occupation used modern weapons. It is as if America sees other nations as rats and rabbits for the conduct of its experiments.

Yesterday the weapons of mass destruction killed ten people in Haiti in a massacre which clearly reflected the Hitlerian style advocated by America to spread its concept of democracy. This reaffirms what we had previoulsy alerted against—namely that the nations of the world have no other alternative but to re-group in a united world front against America. Otherwise their destiny will be identical and they will be killed by American soldiers.

The occupation of Haiti had been preceded by a wide scale black propaganda campaign including the scramble of Haitian immigrants described by the American intelligence agency and its media organs as a threat to America's borders and the existence and interests of America. This at once prompts us to question the justification for america's killing spree in Somalia.

Have Somalia's immigrants threatened American borders, security and interests so that America unleashes its arsenal and massacres the Somali people—elderly, women and children—indiscrimanately?

This confirms that America's repertoire consists only of killing which follow her wherever she goes without discriminating between those on its borders—be they smaller or larger nations. This terrorism is unavoidable unless the victimised nations promptly seek to confront the threat of extermination.

We are alerting the nations of the world as we have often done in the past, that their fate will be that of the Somalis and Haitians. The issue in the American rulers mentality is a matter of priority, on the list of those who have been sentenced to death—they include all the nations who reject submission and refuse to be crushed by the American boot.

U.S. Envoy's 'Interference' in Thailand Assailed

LD2709214794 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] News reports have quoted an official Thai source as saying yesterday that the American ambassador in Bangkok contacted the Thai deputy foreign minister before his visit to the Great Jamahiriyah to tell him of what he described as his concern over that visit. The American ambassador's remarks reflect the flagrant interference of America in the internal affairs of Thailand and its attempt to prevent the establishment of any fruitful cooperation between Thailand and the Great Jamahiriyah. This attitude also reflects the hidden attempt of the American Government to harm the Libyan people through the obstruction of efforts aimed at bolstering the relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and other states, with the aim of promoting development on Arab Libyan land.

Morocco

Foreign Minister Meets With Counterparts at UN

LD2809124394 Rabat MAP in English 1226 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] New York, Sep. 28 (MAP)—Moroccan Premier and Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Abdellatif Filali who arrived here Tuesday started side talks with a number of foreign ministers attending the 49th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Filali thus conferred with the Foreign Ministers of India Dinesh Singh, of Tunisia Habib Ben Yahya, of Libya 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir and of Mexico Manuel Tello on many issues of common concern and ways to enhance bilateral cooperation. Items on the agenda of the UN General Assembly were also brought up.

Meeting With Algerian Planned

LD2809130894 Rabat MAP in English 1234 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Rabat, Sep. 28 (MAP)—Preparations are underway to arrange for a meeting in New York between Moroccan and Algerian foreign ministers to ease 'the tension' in relations between the two countries, according to Moroccan BAYANE AL YOUM daily.

In a story titled 'Neighborhood... and Dialog', the daily of the Party of Progress and Socialism (PPS/Communist) which quoted diplomatic sources in Cairo said the meeting which is to tackle 'divergences and tension' in bilateral relations will be held on the fringes of the UN General Assembly in the presence of Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdelmeguid and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

The daily which wonders on the results of such a meeting hails the initiative as a positive step in itself toward defusing the tension between Rabat and Algiers. The PPS daily further argues that what some are calling 'divergences and tensions' are in fact the result of a political choice from some circles in Algeria which are seeking to harm the kingdom's territorial integrity and security.

Algerian authorities, BAYANE AL YOUM went on, have tried to torpedo the UN projected referendum in the Sahara despite their official commitment to support it; likewise, said the daily, they have sought to export terrorism to Morocco, breaching treaties of the Arab Maghreb Union and principles of neighborliness.

As a conclusion, the daily argues that to overcome these 'divergences and tensions', Algerian authorities should renounce the political choice they have adopted and demonstrate a sincere and mature desire to end their unjustified animosity vis-a-vis Morocco while strictly respecting their international commitments.

Sudan

President al-Bashir Establishes Peace Council

EA2709214794 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has issued a Republican decree establishing a Supreme Council for Peace under his chairmanship. Members of the council will be George Kongor Arop, vice president of the Republic, Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, speaker of the Transitional National Assembly, and 85 people including politicians, ministers, independent personalities, leaders of people's committees in the states, and religious leaders.

The council's task will be to participate in supporting the unity of the country, its security and stability, to protect its borders, to consolidate the bond of brotherhood and cooperation with its neighbors, to supervise the peace process in the country, to deepen its meaning and thereby (?strengthen) tolerance and brotherhood, to direct people's efforts and resources to the cause of peace and stability in the country, to work toward ending the war, and to remove reasons for its renewal. [passage omitted]

Mr. (Ngor Deng) has been appointed secretary general of the council.

Oppositionists Said Training for Guerrilla War

MM2909084994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Sayyid Ahmad Khalifah: "Three Thousand Oppositionists, Most of Them From al-Bajah, Prepare To Launch Guerrilla War in Eastern Sudan"]

[Text] Jeddah—According to informed Eritrean sources, groups of Sudanese oppositionists have set up military training camps in the area of Tilal near Wadi Sawi [names as published] in western Eritrea, and about 3,000 Sudanese trainees, most of them from the al-Bajah tribe, are receiving their training there at the hands of former Sudanese Army officers discharged by the current Sudanese Government.

Citing information from the Eritrean Jihad Organization, which sympathizes with the Sudanese Government, the sources say that these groups are being trained in guerrilla warfare, invasion of cities, and other suicide operations with all types of modern weapons and equipment.

Meanwhile, the magazine AL-JIHAD AL-DUWALIYAH [JIHAD INTERNATIONAL], which is closely linked to the Eritrean Islamic Jihad Movement, said in its latest edition that the area where the Sudanese oppositionists are receiving their training was previously a camp for Eritrean revolution units and that it is an area with an abundance of trees and water and remote from the residential areas and Eritrean villages scattered in the region.

The information indicates that about 3,000 members of the al-Bajah tribes enlisted for training in these camps with the aim of launching guerrilla war against the current Sudanese Government in favor of a Sudanese opposition party widely influential in eastern Sudan, namely the Democratic Unionist Party [DUP] led by Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani, head of the Khatmiyah sect which is very influential in eastern Sudan and western Eritrea.

The Eritrean authorities are said to have prevented people in that area from approaching that camp, and Eritrean military helicopters were seen flying over the camp, landing in it, and then taking off in the direction of the Eritrean towns close by.

It should be recalled that the Eritrean Jihad Organization started its activities about five years ago with 800 men trained on the Eritrean-Sudanese border. It is believed that the Sudanese National Islamic Front [NIF] used to sympathize with them and give them aid as a precaution against possible changes in an Eritrea which had not yet gained its independence. It seems that the recent negative developments in Eritrean-Sudanese relations have reactivated the groups opposed to the governments of the two countries. In addition to the Eritrean Jihad Organization, Sudan has maintained links with Eritrean oppositionists belonging to numerous Eritrean fronts opposed to Afweki's government. Sudan also has arms and military equipment belonging to these organizations that had been seized and kept in Sudanese depots.

The Sudanese authorities had recently complained about activities undermining security in eastern Sudan, but they attributed them to groups of highway bandits. Sudanese opposition circles, however, maintain that antigovernment military operations have begun in eastern Sudan which reflect disputes and conflicts linked to what they call domination of power by partisan elements of the progovernment NIF and their control of interests and monopoly of the region's administration.

On another level, and against a background of a charged atmosphere and the ebb and flow and polarization of the situation, Eritrean Jihad sources say they expect rapprochement between it and the Sudanese authorities with a view to working together against the Eritrean Government.

While a source of the opposition DUP declined to confirm or deny these reports about training and recruitment of people in eastern Sudan in cooperation with the Eritrean Government to open a new front against the Sudanese Government, in addition to the fronts of southern Sudan, western Sudan, and the Nubian Mountains, that same source did not rule out the possibility of such a development. He said that the partisan hegemony, regional grievances, general deterioration of living conditions, diminishing government influence, and lack of services were all factors contributing to the expansion of military action against a government which does not allow any kind of self-expression.

Some sources have revealed that Sudanese opposition members have made numerous visits to Eritrea and Ethiopia and that these visits have now paved the way for possible visits by Sudanese opposition party leaders who have been trying for some time to open a dialogue with the Eritrean Government, which has expressed clear displeasure with the Sudanese Government's policies which Afwerki, in all his speeches and statements, describes as fundamentalist and interfering in the internal affairs of his country and other neighboring countries. Ethiopia has also, to a lesser extent, been complaining about that, but the Sudanese Government has denied these charges.

It seems that these negative developments in Eritrean-Sudanese relations increased after the collapse of the latest IGADD [Inter-Governmental Authority on Development and Drought] conference held in Nairobi. Although Khartoum did not openly say that the Eritrean president was one of those most enthusiastic about the

IGADD states' proposals and one of those who sympathized with the approach and proposals of the [Sudanese] People's [Liberation] Movement [SPLM] led by John Garang, the Sudanese media line which followed the collapse of the IGADD conference indicated that the Sudanese Government was expecting serious difficulties in its relations with the Eritrean Government and did not rule out the possibility that the deterioration would reach the point of cooperation between the Eritrean Government and the Sudanese opposition, including Garang's movement, which would be able to score a crushing military and logistical victory if it managed to restore its links and relations with the Eritrean and Ethiopian Governments and find footholds for itself in these two countries.

For its part, the Sudanese Government is not just looking on as a spectator, waiting for the ax to fall on its head. Some Sudanese Government sources we have been able to contact and talk to in this charged atmosphere in Sudan's relations with its neighbors claim that the Sudanese Government is brandishing a number of cards and ploys in the face of the Asmara government, which knows how serious these cards can be.

The same sources say that the Sudanese Government is reopening its channels of contacts with all the Eritrean fronts, factions, and figures opposed to Afwerki's government, some of them in Sudan and others in other parts of the world, in preparation for any possible further negative developments in Eritrean-Sudanese relations, which are fast heading for the abyss if not for wider military conflict than the minor past border skirmishes when the Eritrean authorities detained a Sudanese officer and confiscated some arms and private property belonging to some Sudanese nationals and also intensified its measures on the traditional crossing points between the two countries.

As regards Egyptian-Sudanese relations, the same sources accused the Egyptian Government of trying to fuel the Eritrean-Sudanese fire, claiming that Cairo has shown a clear interest in ties with the Eritrean Government and that Egypt's backstage role in the recent IGADD conference was clear.

As far as the military situation in southern Sudan is concerned, and amid all these moves exacerbated by Sudanese fear of the existence of a comprehensive plan sponsored by Cairo and financed by the United States and other Western states with the aim of bringing down the Sudanese regime, Khartoum is talking about massive military aid received recently by Garang's movement for the purpose of dealing a painful blow to the government forces preparing to liberate the strategically important town of Nimuli [name as published].

The same sources say that on his return to Nairobi after the failure of the IGADD summit, President Yoweri Museveni of Uganda gave his military commanders the green light to openly cooperate with and support John Garang's movement.

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Meets Yasir 'Arafat in Tunis

LD2809141294 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Excerpt] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali this morning had a meeting in Carthage Palace with President Yasir 'Arafat of Palestine, who made a statement after the meeting in which he said: I was happy at this good meeting to inform the president about all our activities and all the developments taking place in our Palestinian land. Many problems face us because the problems of the construction of the homeland are more numerous than those of the struggle for nationhood. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Poland

LD2709095694 Tunis Tunis-7 Television in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Excerpts] Polish Internal Affairs Minister Andrzej Milczanowski is paying a three-day official visit to Tunisia within the framework of consolidating friendship and cooperation between Tunisia and Poland and by invitation of [Tunisian] Interior Minister Abdallah Kallel.

Talks between the two ministers took place this morning at the Interior Ministry's headquarters, during which they reviewed bilateral cooperation within their authority, and a number of issues of common concern.

The two ministers presided over a working session at the ministry's headquarters and included the members of the two delegations. [passage omitted] The two ministers signed an agreement on cooperation in security and public order.

Regional Airlines Suspend Flights to India

LD2809203894 Riyadh SPA in English 1943 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Sep (SPA)—An official source at the Ministry of Health told Saudi Press Agency today that in view of the appearance and transmission of pneumonic plague in major Indian cities, Saudi Arabia has decided (?to stop all flights between the Kingdom and India) until the hygienic situation is clarified there.

[In a related Manama-datelined report, Riyadh SPA in English at 1939 GMT on 28 September adds: "Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and United Arab Emirates decided today to stop all flights between them and India after the spread of plague in some Indian cities.

["The decision has been made in accordance with an earlier decision in this connection by the executive office of GCC's [Gulf Cooperation Council] council of health ministers, the four countries' health ministries said in separate statements."]

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Letter From Libyan Leader

LD2809121294 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Crown Prince Abdullah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, received a letter addressed to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the servant of the two holy places from his excellency the Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The letter was conveyed by Dr. 'Abdallah Salim al-Badri, secretary of the People's Committee for Energy, during the audience he had with the Crown Prince in his office at the Royal Court in the Salam Palace this afternoon. [passage omitted]

Canadian Defense Minister Collenette Departs

LD2809140794 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1325 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Jeddah—Mr. David Collenette, his excellency the Canadian minister of defense, left Jeddah this afternoon following an official visit to the Kingdom. He was seen off at the King 'Abd-al-'Aziz International Airport by Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense and aviation and inspector general. [passage omitted]

Human Rights Group Demands Release of Activists

NC2809122494 Paris AFP in English 1138 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Nicosia, Sept 28 (AFP)—A London-based Islamic human rights group Wednesday [28 September] demanded that Saudi Arabia set free all pro-reform activists whose arrests were announced by Riyadh on Monday.

In a statement received in Cyprus, the Committee for the Defence of Legitimate Rights (CDLR) challenged Riyadh to "provide a single clear and specific charge against shaykhs Salman al-'Awdah and Safar al-Hawali," two leading clerics alleged to have had contacts with "suspect groups" abroad.

The Saudi interior ministry said the two were among 110 people arrested.

It was the first wave of arrests to be announced by Riyadh since several hundred activists were arrested in 1979 when they occupied the great mosque in the holy city of Mecca.

Shaykhs Al-'Awdah and Al-Hawali "organised public meetings, made provocative speeches and held contacts with suspect groups based abroad, which have an ideology contrary to Islam," said the ministry statement, quoted by the official Saudi press agency SPA.

"The aim of these groups is to sow discord and anarchy in Saudi Arabia," it said.

Last week the CDLR said more than 1,000 activists including clerics and university professors had been arrested in a military-style crackdown.

In its statement Wednesday the human rights group said the interior ministry did "not provide the slightest indication that the two shaykhs have been handed over to the justice authorities.

"This proves incontrovertibly that the judiciary in Saudi Arabia is not independent," the CDLR said, adding that the ministry statement showed "the Saudi authorities' psychological defeat."

Riyadh banned the CDLR's activities several days after it was set up in May 1993. The group said it aimed to fight "oppression and injustice" in the kingdom.

United Arab Emirates

UN's Easing of Anti-Serbia Sanctions Assailed

JN2809204394 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 25 Sep 94 p 1

[Editorial: "Is It Sluggishness or Collusion?"]

[Text] The UN Security Council resolution easing the sanctions clamped on the Republic of Serbia is not only regrettable, but also contemptuous and pitiless. For any fair-minded person on the globe can easily see the great disparity between the chivalric and heroic stand taken against the Haitian military junta and the excessively intransigent stands adopted against Libya on the one hand, and the sluggishness toward Serbian crimes and the plight of Bosnian Muslims on the other. This sluggishness is comparable only to the collusion with Israel in terms of its contempt for the most basic international norms.

The entire world community is well aware that the Bosnian Serbs are continuing their organized extermination against Bosnian Muslims, and Croats for that matter, thanks to the material support they receive from the Republic of Serbia, which is their ethnic and national homeland. The military and logistical support the Bosnian Serbs are receiving from their brethren in the Serbian motherland, despite the sanctions clamped on them, have enabled the former to continue to publicly defy the United Nations, to attack its troops, and to prevent UN relief aid convoys from reaching hundreds of thousands of displaced refugees.

What is even more peculiar is that the United Nations reacts to Serbian attacks on its convoys by suspending these convoys instead of confronting them, even if such a confrontation were to be confined to rhetoric.

What is ironic in this regard is the air raid launched by two NATO planes against a single Serbian tank that opened fire to make the road to Sarajevo both impassable and insecure. This air raid was granted exaggerated coverage by the world news media.

The UN stand on the plight of Bosnian Muslims, as set forth by the big powers, is a stigma plaguing the new world order. It provides conclusive evidence that this order is being born with several handicaps that render it both unviable and undesirable.

So, let the Muslims look for another means to protect their brethren, a means that is not mortgaged to the big powers, which only harbor enmity toward Islam and Muslims.

Yemen

Parliament Adopts New Islamic Constitution

NC2909094794 Paris AFP in English 0905 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Sanaa, Sept 29 (AFP)—Yemen's parliament has adopted a new constitution based on Islamic shari'ah law and decided to scrap the presidential council, officials said Thursday [29 September].

In a special session of the assembly, 235 deputies present out of 301 voted unanimously late Wednesday for the new constitution which stipulates that "shari'ah is the source of all legislation" in Yemen.

The changes to the constitution in force since the May 1990 unification of North and South Yemen were introduced under pressure from the Moslem fundamentalist al-Islah party [Yemeni Reform Grouping], a member of the ruling coalition.

The adoption of the constitution is a preliminary to the formation of a new government grouping al-Islah and the General People's Congress of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

It will exclude the third coalition member, the southern-based Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), following the south's defeat in the May-July civil war.

Under the new constitution, the country's president will be elected by direct universal suffrage for a five-year term, renewable once. He will have the right to appoint his own vice president.

The amendment scraps the five-member presidential council, Yemen's highest ruling body and in which the YSP was also represented.

Parliament meets Saturday for the last time as an electoral college to choose a new president—expected to be Salih again—for the next five years, after which the head of state will be directly elected.

The constitution also lays down the separation of powers, independence of the judiciary and a multiparty system.

Sources on Talks With Oman, Relations With GCC

MM2809155394 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 28 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Husayn 'Abd-al-Ghani: "Oman Continues To Refuse and Sanaa Insists on Extradition of al-Bid and Southern Leaders"]

[Text] Muscat—Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih received yesterday Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Rawwas, who conveyed to him a message from Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id.

Well informed sources in Muscat told AL-HAYAH that the Omani monarch's sending of two messages in only three days (the first was delivered by the Omani ambassador in Sanaa) reveals the delicate nature of the issues being discussed between the two countries.

The sources believe that the issues resulting from the Yemeni war, especially the fate of the senior south Yemeni leaders who took refuge in the sultanate after the south's defeat in the war, and the future of Yemeni-Gulf relations, which deteriorated further after the war, are likely to be in the forefront of the matters which are subject to extensive consultation between the two countries. This consultation reached its peak about two weeks ago during 'Ali Salih's visit to Oman.

The sources pointed out that there are no indications that Oman is willing to extradite the political refugees, first and foremost 'Ali Salim al-Bid, or that Yemen has abandoned the request for their extradition.

However, the sources believe that the issue of the prominent Yemeni refugees is unlikely to affect the course of relations between Muscat and Sanaa. Especially as the former hastened to hand over all the weapons and military, naval, air, and land equipment which those who fled to it took with them after the war—an operation which sources on both sides confirm was completed last week.

But Yemeni-Gulf relations seem to be more difficult, as these sources believe that the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] Ministerial Council's emphasis at its recent session on the need for Sanaa to issue a general amnesty and to hold a dialogue with all the parties is a clear indication of the difficulty in achieving Gulf normalization with the Yemeni leadership before the latter transcends the logic of war and proves its ability to control the internal situation with regard to not allowing any political or moral domination for the Yemeni fundamentalist tendencies, which were Lt. Gen. 'Ali Salih's main ally in his war with the southerners.

It is clear that it will be a long time before an intermediary role by Oman—something Yemen seems to be relying on—can achieve tangible results on the ground in terms of repairing relations with the GCC states (with the exception of Qatar).

Tariq 'Aziz Meets With France's Juppe in New York

JN2809135394 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1118 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] New York, 28 Sep (INA)—Last night, Iraq and France held the first official ministerial meeting between the two countries since 1990.

Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz led the Iraqi side and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe led the French delegation.

The Iraqi and French officials are taking part in the current UN General Assembly session.

Attending the meeting which was held at Juppe's residence in New York were Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Riyad al-Qaysi, Iraq's permanent UN Representative Nizar Hamdun, and France's permanent UN Representative Jean-Bernard Merimee.

The Iraqi and French officials expressed their satisfaction with the results of the meeting and shook hands before the press and cameras.

Juppe told journalists that his meeting with Tariq 'Aziz was useful and an opportunity to explain France's stand toward Iraq since it has fulfilled its obligations toward the UN Security Council resolutions, and in view of what we have seen over the past weeks and months in terms of development and progress in the implementation of these resolutions, and the need to take these things into consideration.

Al-Sahhaf Meets Egyptian, Vietnamese Party Delegations

JN2809152094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1938 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Sep (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has received an Egyptian delegation representing the Arab Nasirite Party led by Farid 'Abd-al-Karim. During the meeting, al-Sahhaf fully explained Iraq's stand toward the unjust Security Council resolutions. He also spoke about the developments within the Security Council and the feverish U.S. attempts to impede the lifting of the unjust blockade imposed on Iraq.

Farid 'Abd-al-Karim commended the heroic Iraqi stand in the face of the iniquitous embargo imposed on it. He said the Arab people of Egypt appreciate and support the Iraqi people's steadfastness. He added that Iraq's ability to continue construction despite the embargo will remain a bright landmark in Arab history.

The minister also met with Do Van Thai, deputy chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Vietnamese Communist Party [title as received]. The two sides exchanged views on promoting Iraqi-Vietnamese bilateral ties to serve the common interests of the two peoples. Al-Sahhaf briefed the guest on the current contacts with the Security Council and Iraq's just call on the council to lift the unjust blockade following Iraq's fulfillment of all its obligations.

The head of the Vietnamese delegation expressed his country's solidarity with Iraq and the historic leadership of President Saddam Husayn. He also hailed the Iraqi people's steadfastness against the unjust embargo, noting that international support for Iraq and its just stands is on the rise.

Ramadan Receives Egyptians

JN2809165794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Sep (INA)—Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan has said that the support of Iraqis and free Arabs for the courageous leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn at this point in time means that they are adhering to the principles he upholds and the objectives he seeks to achieve.

During a meeting with Farid 'Abd-al-Karim, secretary general of the Egyptian Arab Nasirite Party, and his delegation, Ramadan added that the Arab popular forces' support for Iraq will isolate the agent and treasonous Arab regimes, and inflict defeat on them and their masters, be they Americans, Zionists, or NATO members.

The vice president reiterated that the Iraqis' strong and courageous adherence to their principles has thwarted the schemes of enemies and traitors to undermine their will and drive the Arab masses into desperation.

The secretary general of the Arab Nasirite Party commended the leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, as well as the Iraqis' heroic stand in the face of the treacherous 30-state aggression, asserting that the Arabs are well aware that the colonialist and exploitative United States is an enemy of world peoples in general, and of the Arabs in particular.

Farid 'Abd-al-Karim noted that the Arabs in Egypt and elsewhere in the Arab world support steadfast Iraq in its efforts to defend Arab existence.

ICRC Refutes Iranian Claims Regarding POW's

JN2809180694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] New York, 28 Sep (INA)—The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has refuted the Iranian regime's claims regarding the alleged presence of Iranian POW's in Iraq.

In a memorandum circulated among members of the UN Security Council on 26 September regarding the POW's issue, the ICRC said that, despite Iranian allegations that there are several thousand Iranian POW's still held in Iraq, ICRC records and other sources confirm that these allegations are baseless.

The ICRC went on to say that there are no Iranian POW's held in Iraq. In the same vein, the ICRC asked the Iranian regime to provide clarifications on the fate of 13,132 Iraqi POW's registered with the ICRC, and 5,415 other POW's identified through letters they exchanged with their families, not to mention 347 others who addressed the Iranian media while being held captive.

The ICRC urged Tehran to allow ICRC delegations to visit the POW camps in Iran to meet with Iraqi POW's, who are still in detention more than six years after the end of the Iraq-Iran war, to work for their repatriation.

Talabani, Islamic Movement Member Barzanji Meet

NC2809180594 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1622 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Excerpts] A news conference was held at the office of the Political Bureau of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] in al-Sulaymaniyah today. It was attended by PUK Secretary General Jalal Talabani; Jawhar Namiq Salim, speaker of the Kurdistan region parliament; Yunis Rujbayani, interior minister and acting prime minister; and Shaykh Muhammad Barzanji, member of the Political Bureau of the Islamic Movement. It was also attended by representatives from the Communist Party and other parties in the Kurdistan Front.

At the outset of the news conference, brother Jalal Talabani spoke about the process of normalizing relations in Kurdistan in general and in al-Sulaymaniyah in particular. He referred to the resolutions issued by the Kurdistan parliament on calming down the situation in Kurdistan. These resolutions include:

1. Evacuation of party centers.
2. Prohibition of internecine fighting.
3. Release of all prisoners.
4. Removal of all unofficial checkpoints.
5. Evacuation of houses seized during the recent events in Kurdistan.

Brother Jalal Talabani noted that the leaders of all parties have decided and pledged to observe peace and brotherhood, work hand in hand, transcend party differences, work together to calm down the situation so that it will be better than before, and to work side by side with a spirit of responsibility. He added that all parties must support the Kurdistan parliament and government. He said that the Kurdistan parliament has played an honorable and positive role in the process of normalizing relations in Kurdistan. The Kurdish people should feel sure about the final normalization of the situation in Kurdistan. This normalization should herald the start of solidarity and brotherhood among the political parties in Kurdistan. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Muhammad Barzanji, member of the political movement of the Islamic Movement, then spoke, noting brother Jalal Talabani's positive and effective role in normalizing relations in Kurdistan. He said the Kurdistan parliament should adopt a resolution prohibiting and criminalizing internecine fighting. He referred to the question of safeguarding the Kurdistan parliament and the role of the Kurdistan government. He said any resolution issued by these two authorities must be respected by all parties. There must be respect for the law so that we will not lose this democratic atmosphere prevailing in Kurdistan.

Minister Warns 'Another Way To Deal With' UNSC

JN2809144594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1050 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Sep (INA)—The Iraqi News Agency has asked Information and Culture Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi the following question about Iraq's relations with the UN Security Council [UNSC]:

Reports have been circulating on premeditated intentions by certain countries known for their bad intentions against Iraq that they, especially the United States, are planning to place relations between Iraq and the Security Council in an unclear and fluid framework, especially with regard to the commitments the Security Council should fulfill toward Iraq to lift the blockade since Iraq has fulfilled its obligations toward this article [not further identified], as is well known. Recalling the leadership's promise to the people that it will place matters in their proper perspective in case maneuvering and procrastination continue and in case the blockade remains in place, what can you say in this regard, particularly if the Security Council's meeting next October fails to produce clear, specific results?

Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi replied: Security Council resolutions against Iraq have been the hardest and most cruel resolutions this council has ever adopted. They have done Iraq an inconceivable injustice. In spite of this—and as the majority of the council members and all impartial people in the world admit—Iraq has implemented its commitments as stipulated in these resolutions, especially the commitments required for lifting the blockade in Paragraphs 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 of Resolution 687. However, we still see that influential Security Council members continue to maneuver and play with words to hide their real intentions and political objectives against Iraq, which the other members do not share. The Americans continue to push for, and employ pressure to continue the siege imposed on Iraq.

Hence, we have to say clearly that this arbitrary U.S. policy will force Iraq to find another way to deal with the Security Council, especially with known members of that council. Iraq will also be forced to reconsider the way it deals with Rolf Ekeus [chairman of the UN Special Commission] in case he follows the U.S. scheme in the report he will present to the Security Council. Ekeus is due to present a report to the council on 10 October stating the completion of the future monitoring plan as stipulated by Resolution 715 and the start of the implementation of this plan. This will mean, according to Resolution 687, that Iraq has implemented all commitments demanded for the lifting of the economic blockade and that the Security Council should make a clear decision to lift the siege in accordance with Paragraph 22 of that resolution. The future monitoring plan is supposed to be concurrent with the lifting of the siege and not with its continuation.

The minister of culture and information added: Hence, we clearly emphasize that the contents of the report Ekeus will present to the Security Council next October; how closely it adheres to facts; and the extent to which it recognizes Iraq's implementation of its commitments; in conjunction with the results of the council's upcoming meeting on that report, will bring things to a crossroad. Accordingly, the choice will be clear, and no impartial people can be confused when selecting between what is right and what is wrong, between lifting the siege on Iraq, or following the U.S. political scheme.

He concluded by saying that Iraq's delegation, headed by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, which is currently is New York, continues its contacts with delegations of Security Council member states and nonmembers to emphasize these facts, and to ask the council members to reach a just decision about lifting the siege imposed on Iraq since it has implemented all commitments needed for such a decision.

Catholic Archbishop: 'Embargo Killing Us'

BR2709143694 Milan L'EUROPEO in Italian 28 Sep 94 pp 58-59

[Interview with Hay al-Wahda, Roman Catholic archbishop of Baghdad, by Vittorio Colombo in Baghdad; date not given: "We Are a Flock"—first two paragraphs are L'EUROPEO introduction]

[Text] The ceiling fans slice at the sultry air: almost 50 degrees Celsius. The Roman Catholic archbishop of Baghdad's residence is a two-story detached house in a cool and peaceful residential neighborhood. But the solace that it brings lasts but a moment. "Our people can go on no longer," Archbishop Hay Al-Wahda begins. "The embargo is killing us day by day. All those who can are now selling all their belongings to scrape together the 40,000 dinars they need for an exit permit and are leaving the country. All this is immoral: The United Nations cannot starve a people in the hope that it will turn against its rulers. It is inhuman."

The archbishop is Lebanese and has been leading the Roman Catholic community in Baghdad for 11 years. Eight years spent studying in Rome have given him a good command of Italian.

[Colombo] What is life for a Christian like in Iraq?

[Al-Wahda] We are a small minority, 4 percent of the population, but we can live normally. There is no discrimination. We can teach the catechism in schools where at least 25 percent of the students are Catholics.

[Colombo] Other minorities are less fortunate...

[Al-Wahda] You mean the Kurds? That is true, but how could they grant independence only to the 2 million Iraqi Kurds when there are 8 million more living on Turkish territory? As things stand, the Kurds will never have anything like an autonomous state.

[Colombo] Is Saddam still firmly in power?

[Al-Wahda] It is difficult to tell. The only newspapers we have are government-published; there are no independent ones. We are living in the dark.

[Colombo] And the population?

[Al-Wahda] The population suffers, complains, and prays.

[Colombo] But does it go no further, does it not realize the extent of the responsibility of its ruler? Does it not rebel?

[Al-Wahda] What can you expect, the population is a mass. We Christians say so as well, do we not? The people are a flock...

Compensation Explained for Ration Changes

JN2709122694 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Text] Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn has stated the following: The instructions issued by the Council of Ministers—which attempt to bring order to the economic situation created by the circumstances of the unfair blockade and to compensate some of those citizens who have monthly payments for dropping some of the items from the ration card—reflect the constant care of the leader of the march of jihad and victory, President Saddam Husayn, may God watch over him, for the sons of his steadfast people.

The finance minister said the measures are meant to bolster the people's steadfastness. They also stem from the great confidence in the people's capability, patience, and sacrifices throughout the years of the unfair blockade, which have foiled all enemy schemes to undermine our people's power and dignity.

The finance minister added: The blockade is about to collapse. Therefore, we are all asked to do our best to rationalize spending and consumption and reorganize our life in a manner that ensures our steady, confident steps toward manifest victory, with God's help.

The finance minister added that the categories included in the instructions shall be paid 2,000 dinars per month as compensation for the items dropped from the ration card. The categories included are:

1. Civil servants. This includes all state and socialist sector employees, including those on study leave and maternity leave, as well as [words indistinct] taxes.

2. Armed Forces personnel, including conscripts serving their compulsory military service, reservists, internal security forces, and special services [words indistinct] subcommittee for employment, which amounts to 2,000 dinars, shall be disbursed to each of the officials, even if they belong to the same family.

3. Families of martyrs.

4. Retirees who completed 25 years of service or reached the legal age. Service here refers to the duration of service computed for retirement purposes, which includes active service [words indistinct] for the purpose of the retirement salary. This includes the families of deceased retirees whose retirement [word indistinct] totals 25 years or more. The legal age referred to here is 63 years for a civilian retiree covered by the Civil Retirement Law and the designated age for retirement of those included under the Military Service and Retirement Law No. 1 of 1975, the Service and Retirement Law of the Internal Security Forces No. 1 of 1978, and the other retirement laws in force.

5. Retired officers of the Armed Forces, internal security forces, and special agencies, regardless of the duration of their retirement service.

6. The people covered by the Social Care Law No. 126 of 1980, who receive a family-care salary in line with the law.

7. The men of al-Qadisiyah and the Mother of Battles whose disability is 60 percent or more.

The finance minister added that the compensation sum will be disbursed in cash as part of the monthly salaries those people receive from their departments and as part of the retirement salaries for the retirees. This will take effect with the October salary.

Rabin May End Syria Talks if Majority Bill Passes

TA2809174994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has warned that if any law is passed requiring an absolute majority of the Knesset for Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, he may break off the negotiations with Syria. Rabin was speaking to the Labor Party Knesset caucus, in which a small group of members say they will introduce such a law next week. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Katzenell] Prime Minister Rabin began by reminding the caucus about another problem, which has on the face of it nothing to do with the Golan Heights, namely, the deadlock in the coalition talks with the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party. If no understanding is reached with SHAS, he warned, it will vote with the opposition next week and we shall not have a majority.

Rabin said if the Knesset passes a law which says the government needs an absolute majority to withdraw from the Golan, this would have great international significance and he would consider informing the United States that he could not continue with the negotiations with Syria. He warned the caucus that this could also affect the negotiations with Jordan and the Palestinians, not to mention the Lebanese. Rabin described the various bills which aim to limit the government's room to maneuver in the negotiations with Syria, as a Denver boot law, meaning that they would shackle the government like a car which had been booted. Rabin said he was also considering making it an issue of confidence, meaning that if the government loses next week, it will have to resign.

Rabin said the whole debate over the Golan is premature since there was in any case no agreement with the Syrians. There were still large gaps on all the main issues: the boundary line, the time which the withdrawal by stages would last, the nature of the peace, and the security arrangements. Rabin dismissed the opposition charges that he had promised the Americans a complete withdrawal in the Golan. On the contrary, Rabin said, he had rejected a demand from Syria's President al-Asad that he declare willingness for such a withdrawal.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 28 September, reporting on Rabin's comments to Labor's Knesset caucus, adds: "According to Rabin a referendum should be held only after an agreement is finalized so that the public would be able to assess the price of the agreement and decide whether it is willing to support it." "Referring to the negotiations with Syria, Rabin added he is still demanding a withdrawal of five years. Syria, however, is concerned about the elections in Israel and is demanding completion of the process within two years. The prime minister noted he told Syria, via the United States, it has nothing to fear because Israeli governments honor the commitments made by previous governments. Rabin added, however, that Syria's decisions are based on what it considers its own interests."]

Rabin warned that if the negotiations with Syria break down, he would not be surprised if the flow of arms into Lebanon increases. Only last week a TOW [tube-launched optically tracked wire-guided] missile was fired at an Israeli tank in south Lebanon, Rabin disclosed. The American-made TOW is more sophisticated than its Soviet-manufactured equivalent, the Sagger, and Rabin believes Hizballah received the TOW from Iran. In order to stop the fighting in Lebanon it was vital to reach a peace agreement with Syria, Rabin said.

Five Labor Knesset members are still threatening to submit their Golan Heights bill next week. I asked their leader Avigdor Qahalani if he was satisfied with the prime minister's assurance that no agreement had been reached with Syria.

[Begin Qahalani recording] No, it does not satisfy me. My feeling is that we are going to withdraw from all the Golan Heights, and this is the reason that I try to stop Mr. Rabin and his government from withdrawing from the Golan Heights. This is my feeling and nobody tried to convince me this is not true. [end recording]

Peres Seconds Rabin's Statement

TA2909073294 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in New York by Uri Paz—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Paz] Shalom to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who is attending the UN General Assembly session in New York.

[Peres] Shalom.

[Paz] Rabin is threatening to terminate the negotiations with Syria if the Golan Law amendment is ratified. Do you share this pointed message, this threat of Rabin's?

[Peres] I think he is right, because if the Golan issue is shackled, then there is no point in negotiating with Syria.

[Paz] Do you mean that you would rather see the government fall in a no-confidence motion rather than as a result of the Golan Law amendment?

[Peres] No, I would rather see the government conduct negotiations. It would be best if the government garnered a majority for negotiations with Syria. Look, there is a genuine problem here. The problem is not whether we want to cede the Golan Heights; the real problem is whether we want to stop the peace process. Who would want to just cede the Golan Heights? The real question is whether the Knesset wants to stop the peace process. In my opinion, this is the problem.

[Paz] Is this some kind of a signal to Meretz, which is more opposed to SHAS' [Torah Observing Sephardim] joining the government than to negotiations with Syria?

[Peres] Look, we are not conducting politics with Meretz or with SHAS. We must decide where Israel is heading—to peace or to the continued state of no peace and possibly of war. If we want peace, we must say the truth, make truthful decisions, and stop escaping into ambiguities and illusions.

[Paz] This morning Yitzhaq Rabin is meeting with the five Knesset members who are planning to submit the Golan Law amendment. Did you, who are busy meeting with foreign ministers and statesmen in New York, try to contact the five to dissuade them from making the move?

[Peres] I am doing all I can to influence them not to make this fatal mistake, not to assume culpability for terminating the peace process. You know, people are always searching for answers to two questions—one having to do with merit and the other with evil. The merit has to do with who won the wars and the evil with who lost the peace. I urge my colleagues not to be culpable for stopping the peace process.

[Paz] Mr. Peres, an Israeli newspaper this morning cites a senior Jordanian source as saying that Peres and Hasan will declare the return of territories to Jordan in Washington next Monday [3 October]. Can you confirm this information?

[Peres] There are two things: There is the border problem which needs to be negotiated in a businesslike and orderly matter. The negotiations on this issue have not ended, and I do not want to make unrealistic statements at this point. The second problem is the water issue. These two problems constitute the gap between the Israeli and Jordanian stands, and they are preventing the signing of a peace agreement. I hope sincerely that we will make progress in these two spheres of water and land. I cannot commit myself either to deadlines or to points of agreement. What I can pledge is that we will work very earnestly and very seriously toward an arrangement.

[Paz] Do you propose that Jordan should sign a peace agreement without heeding the water controversy at this point?

[Peres] I certainly urge Jordan to believe that not only does Israel want peace with Jordan, but we want the peace with Jordan to be acceptable to the Jordanians. This time we will establish a permanent border; it is possible. I earnestly propose that we move forward without any hesitations. [passage omitted]

Labor MK's Still To Promote Bill

TA2909090894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Excerpts] The prime minister has voiced the hope that the Labor Knesset members [MK's] with whom he met this morning would bow to the decision of a majority if and when the bill requiring an absolute Knesset majority for withdrawal from the Golan Heights is submitted for the Knesset debate and vote. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Mr. Rabin again said at the meeting that right now the issue at stake is the nation's right to decide and not the future of the Golan. [passage omitted] [Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 29 September reports that "the meeting was attended by Labor MK's Lass, Zismann, Gal, and Qahalani."]

After their meeting with the prime minister, the Labor MK's who support the bill shackling the Golan Law, decided to proceed with their plan to submit their bill to the Knesset.

Our correspondent Yo'av Ya'aqov reports that the MK's announced, however, that they would not support any bill submitted by the opposition.

MK Avigdor Qahalani raised the option of leaving the Golan's Jewish settlements intact and leasing the land for 50 years. He maintained that Mr. Rabin had not ruled out this line of thinking. Qahalani added that he intends to try to stop the Golan settlers' hunger strike.

Bill Submitted To Hold Referendum

TA2909125194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Labor Knesset Member [MK] Avi Yehezqel and Likud MK David Magen have submitted to the Knesset Secretariat a bill proposing that a referendum on the Golan issue be held within two months and no later than January. MK Magen joined MK Yehezqel's initiative with the Likud leaders' approval.

MK Yehezqel told our correspondent that he will not abide by the Labor faction's resolution of yesterday and that he will vote for his bill in 45 days. This will be a preliminary reading vote, and if endorsed, the bill will be relegated to the Knesset Constitution, Law, and Justice Committee. It is thus possible that the legislative proceedings in the committee will last past January—the last date cited by the bill for the referendum.

Rabin Favors Building in Alfey Menashe Settlement

TA2909083494 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin favors freeing public land in the Alfey Menashe area, so an estimated 700 new housing units can be built, assuming this is legal and not a violation of the two- year-old settlement freeze, he told the cabinet yesterday.

Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni objected, saying this would violate the freeze and Israel has no right to expand existing settlements by freeing up public land.

"The prime minister said he told then President George Bush and President Bill Clinton that he could not stop people, who already have contracts, from engaging in some private building," Aloni told reporters afterward. "However, this is something different because we are talking about land" that does not belong to Israel, she said.

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said that building housing in unspecified "seam" settlements near the Green Line should be considered.

"I think we should do it, but only minimally, in areas such as those around Jerusalem," Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur said. "I would not go much beyond that, except in areas around the 'seam.'"

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office said they do not foresee legal obstacles that would block the new housing in Alfey Menashe.

Sources said Rabin told the cabinet such construction would not violate the freeze pledge he made to Bush two years ago in return for $10 billion in loan guarantees, since the issue at hand was private rather than government-subsidized construction.

"There are many seam settlements about which there will be discussion and argument with the Palestinian delegation," Ben- Eli'ezer told Israel Radio. "It is not sure there is a demand for housing in those settlements today, but the moment there is ... there is no reason to stop such a thing."

Rabin: Cave of Patriarchs To Be Opened Late Oct

TA2809135094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] During today's cabinet session, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin assessed that the Cave of the Patriarchs will be reopened late October. According to Rabin it has been decided to divide the cave between Jewish and Muslim worshipers. Our correspondent reports that Jewish worshipers will be allocated two halls while the Muslims will be given one hall. During the next month an exercise will be held in order to examine the security procedures in the Cave of the Patriarchs. In accordance with the Shamgar Commission recommendations, a special Border Police force will be deployed on site.

Peres Discusses Trade, Peace With UK's Hurd, Others

TA2809134794 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by New York correspondent Sue Fishkoff]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] On Monday [26 September], Peres asked British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd to encourage the European Community to allow Israel to export larger quotas of agricultural goods to the EC, to compensate Israeli farmers for the loss of domestic markets to cheaper-priced Palestinian produce. He also urged British support for a Middle East regional development bank, a government priority for several years now.

Hurd reiterated the British government's support for the peace process and said he recently heard positive statements from al-Asad. Hurd said he believes al-Asad "trusts the Americans" and feels the peace process is moving in the right direction. [passage omitted]

Canadian Foreign Minister Andre Ouellet told Peres Canada would gladly take part in any Middle East peacekeeping campaign if requested.

Peres suggested that a free trade zone agreement be signed between Canada and Israel, similar to the one between Israel and the U.S. Ouellet replied that Canada would consider such an agreement if it appears "mutually beneficial."

In a meeting with the president and foreign minister of Mexico, Peres asked Mexico to contribute $15 million to the Palestinian Authority for administrative costs in the Gaza Strip. President Salinas said his government would consider the request.

Spain's Foreign Minister Javier Solana Madariaga discussed with Peres several proposed trilateral projects among Israel, Spain, and Morocco.

Many foreign ministers said they would attend the Casablanca Conference on Economic Development next month and several, including the Canadian and Chinese ministers, indicated they would visit Israel in the near future.

Peres is to address the UN General Assembly tomorrow. He will meet with UN Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on Friday.

[A report by 'Aqiva Eldar and Shlomo Shamir on page A3 of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 28 September adds that the Netherlands foreign minister told Peres that "several countries in Western Europe would like to lift the embargo on arms sales to Syria" and "decided to revise the embargo in accordance with the progress made in the peace process in recent months."]

Peres: NPT Signed Only After Comprehensive Peace

TA2809172294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres says Israel will not sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] before a comprehensive peace is achieved in the Middle East. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that during his meeting with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa in New York, Mr. Peres said Egypt has nothing to fear, but Israel has no reason to allay the concerns of Iran, Iraq, and Libya. According to Peres, the apprehension of these countries contributes to Israel's power to deter them.

Regarding the negotiations with Syria, Foreign Minister Musa said that substantial progress must be made in the talks before a summit meeting is held between President al-Asad and Prime Minister Rabin.

Shahal: Leave Police Forces in West Bank Cities

TA2609102694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 26 Sep 94

[Telephone interview with Police Minister Moshe Shahal by correspondent Hayim Zissowitz; place not given—live]

[Excerpt] [Zissowitz] Minister Shahal, is it possible to hold elections in the territories while the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is still deployed inside the cities?

[Shahal] The agreement clearly stipulates that the IDF must withdraw from population centers on the eve of the elections. The precise meaning of this time reference has not been defined. I assume that it refers to enough time to allow the elections to proceed without an army presence.

[Zissowitz] Can we afford to remove the IDF from the cities?

[Shahal] I do not think so, because the security of Israeli citizens will thus be seriously endangered. I think the Oslo Declaration of Principles [DOP] did not foresee all the problems that could arise in this issue—especially in the mixed cities due to the fact that Israel bears overall responsibility for every Israeli citizen and settler living in Judaea and Samaria—but that a solution can be found. The problem is especially acute in all the cities, such as Nabulus and Ramallah, through which it is necessary to pass. The issue of security will have to be addressed if the IDF redeploys.

[Zissowitz] You proposed to deploy policemen in place of the soldiers in order to solve this problem. Will it be possible to hold the elections in this way?

[Shahal] Look, after I perused the DOP some 10 months ago I wrote a statement of opinion to the prime minister, the foreign minister, and the attorney general in which I noted that the IDF will have to withdraw from certain places once elections are held and that it is necessary to find an appropriate solution to the problem of Israeli citizens' security, law and order, and security along the roads. While the IDF must withdraw and redeploy, in my opinion the police and border police forces are not included in the definition of army forces, therefore their presence in the area could be accepted as a solution which will afford security to Israeli citizens, provide security in mixed cities and along the roads. I do not see any other possibility for achieving security along the roads that Israelis and Palestinians jointly use. Without close police cooperation on a daily basis it will be impossible to attain security.

[Zissowitz] Do you think it will make any difference to the Palestinians whether the army or the border police are deployed in the area?

[Shahal] It makes a difference to the High Court of Justice, but not to the Palestinians. The question, however, concerns what the DOP says about this. I think the DOP permits us to state that police forces should retain responsibility for routine security, law and order, and safeguarding the roads. The agreement states that Israel will retain responsibility for the security of Israeli citizens and public order, and it only refers to the pullout of army forces, not all types of Israeli forces, therefore I conclude that the DOP leaves room for the presence of police forces. [passage omitted]

Bar'am: Jordan Minister Ordered To Miss Meeting

TA2909094094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am says Israel and Egypt will sign a document of principles on tourism issues today. The document, which was finalized with Egyptian Tourism Minister Mamduh al-Biltaji, will be signed at Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni's residence. Today Minister al-Biltaji, Minister Bar'am, and Ilyas Frayj, who has the tourism portfolio at the Palestinian Authority, will tour Haifa and Nazareth.

Minister Bar'am told our correspondent 'Ofra Nehmad that his Jordanian counterpart failed to arrive at the Allenby Bridge yesterday because he had been instructed not to participate in the tripartite meeting. Minister Bar'am maintained that the Jordanians were uneasy about the tourism talks progressing more rapidly than the other tracks of the Jordan-Israel negotiations.

Labor MK on Organization, Ideology Changes

TA2709140394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Hagay Merom, head of Labor's internal affairs committee, has issued a document calling for far-reaching organizational and ideological changes in his party in view of regional changes, and it has caused sharp reactions in the political arena.

Merom suggests doing away with the post of secretary general and appointing a general manager for the party, setting up a triumvirate made up of an economic secretary, a political secretary, and a party affairs secretary. In response to a request by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Merom drafted a document suggesting changes in the platform. In his view, the establishment of a Palestinian state should no longer be ruled out, the Palestinians should be permitted to open an embassy in East Jerusalem, and peace with Syria must be based on Labor's readiness for a Golan withdrawal to as far as is needed while assuring security and water resources. The document calls for assisting the Jewish residents of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip who want to leave even before an arrangement is reached, and to finalize evacuation and compensation arrangements for those forced to leave the Golan Heights due to peace with Syria.

Labor Minister Mikha Harish and Labor Treasurer Moshe Kohen rejected the proposals. Harish believes they will lead to a split in the party, and Kohen says that while Merom is imaginative, that is not the change the party needs or should be striving for.

On the Golan Heights, the settlers reacted angrily to the clauses dealing with compensation and evacuation.

The right wing said the Merom document proves that there is in fact no difference between Labor and Meretz. The Likud spokesman called on the two parties to unite under the radical left flag.

Tzomet MK Eli'ezer Sandberg called for early elections because he said Labor is not fulfilling what it promised its votes.

Meretz leaders Yosi Sarid and Shulamit Aloni believe the time is not right for ideological changes, and urged that all efforts continue to be concentrated on advancing the peace process. Minister Aloni noted that the representatives of the voters in the cabinet and the Knesset have a mandate to implement a platform and to react to changes in the political arena. Sarid said the time is not ripe to discuss a new party lineup.

Further Details on Proposals

TA2809161894 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Sep 94 p A5

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yerah Tal]

[Excerpts] Knesset Member [MK] Hagay Merom, chairman of Labor's Internal Party Affairs Committee, has formulated a document which includes a proposal to introduce far-reaching changes in Labor's platform and in its organizational structure. He will present the document to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, the party chairman, and Labor institutions this week.

Merom suggests that Labor's platform does not reject the establishment of a Palestinian state within the framework of a permanent solution and that the Palestinians might have an embassy in Jerusalem with diplomatic rights, similar to those of all other embassies, and situated at Orient House. Nevertheless, according to Merom, Jerusalem will remain a united Israeli city and no sections will be handed over to Palestinian sovereignty.

MK Merom suggests that the Jewish neighborhoods bordering on Jerusalem be annexed to the city, which would become Greater Jerusalem after the borders are delineated with the Palestinians. Under the proposal, the government would offer an evacuation and compensation deal to those Jewish residents of the West Bank wanting to leave voluntarily prior to a permanent arrangement. The Jordan Rift Valley and the northern Dead Sea (from Mehola to 'En Gedi, except for the areas handed over to Palestinian control in Jericho and al-'Awja') will be defined as "security areas" and will remain a single bloc of settlements not to be included in the area to be transferred to the Palestinians before border demarcations in the permanent settlement, in order to leave open a realistic possibility for Israeli control along the Jordan River in the permanent arrangement.

In reference to the peace accord with Syria, Merom suggests that Labor authorize its emissaries in the government to work out a peace accord on the basis of "a readiness for a withdrawal as far as is needed on the Golan Heights as long as security arrangements—including demilitarization, supervision, early warning, and disarmament are assured—and Israel keeps its current water resources." Merom suggests that evacuation and compensation arrangements be assured for anybody forced to leave the Golan. He also proposes that Israel agree to a continued Syrian presence in Lebanon as part of a peace agreement with it, in return for Syrian guarantees to maintain peace in Galilee.

Merom proposes that any peace agreement worked out between Israel and Syria be approved by a regular majority in a national referendum and demands that bills by private members be forbidden on that issue.

In the party affairs section, Merom offers far-reaching suggestions, which might set off a storm in the party. He suggests abolishing the job of party secretary general and appointing a leadership team, in view of the criticism leveled by senior party officials, including Merom himself, on the performance of Secretary General Nisim Zvili due to the party's failures in the local elections, chiefly the Histadrut elections.

Merom suggests that the leadership team appoint seven people—a party chairman (who will continue to be prime minister and the party's candidate for prime minister), acting chairman (who will be number two in the party's Knesset list), chairman of the Central Committee, bureau chairman, chairman of the political secretariat, chairman of the economic-social secretariat, and chairman of the organizational secretariat.

Merom suggests that three national secretariats be set up, each to be headed by a chairman elected by the Central Committee: a political secretariat, an economic-social secretariat, and an organizational secretariat. Each secretariat will have 31 members, to be elected by the Central Committee. Labor's Bureau, to be made up of members of the three secretariats, will have 95 members and will be headed by a chairman, who will be elected by the Central Committee. The bureau will be convened by the leadership team.

Under Merom's proposal, Labor headquarters and its national organizational framework will be run by an appointed professional managing director, not to be chosen from among the elected members; the party's traditional regional divisions will be altered to three sectoral regions and three territorial regions; a referendum will be held among registered members who have paid their dues on whether to chose a list of candidates for the Knesset in open or closed primaries. The primary system will be decided by a majority decision, which will then be presented for approval at the next party conference. [passage omitted]

It should be noted that MK Avraham Burg, who like Merom is a Labor dove, has recently formulated several proposals to update Labor's platform, most of which are identical to Merom's suggestions. On the other hand, Labor's Mainstream Forum, the hawkish bloc headed by Minister Shim'on Shetrit, is also preparing a document with proposals for amendments in the party platform, but in the opposite direction of those suggested by Merom and Burg. [passage omitted]

Injunction Suspends Police Departure for Haiti

TA2909082594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] The Israeli police delegation will not leave for Haiti for the time being. Our legal affairs correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that the High Court of Justice has issued an order nisi suspending the delegation's departure until such time as additional explanations on the source of the police authority to dispatch uniformed policemen outside the country are given.

Justice Yitzhaq Zamir said the question of authority goes down to the very roots of Israeli rule. It is important because in another instance, policemen could be dispatched to repress an African nation. The goal does not suffice either, because it is inconceivable that the Institute of National Insurance, for instance, should set up an airline merely because it had surplus funds.

The High Court is expected to hold another debate on sending the delegation to Haiti in five days.

Shahal on 'Erroneous' Ruling

TA2909122594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Police Minister Moshe Shahal still believes today, after the High Court of Justice ruling, that the court decision to suspend the departure of policemen to Haiti was erroneous.

[Begin Shahal recording] This was a government move in what we term a constitutional system. If this law—which was originally a British law and is still valid in England—is interpreted by the Israeli court as confining the government's power to dispatch police troops—although this is not the interpretation made in England—then with all due respect, the Israeli court has a problem on its hands. There is no problem in terms of international proceedings. The court has, in fact, proclaimed that the laws pertaining to the Israel Police and the Army do not permit Israel to belong to the international community and to meet its international commitments. Furthermore, the court also said today that the delegation to Rwanda, too, had been sent on erroneous premises. I repudiate this, because the entire enlightened world, which we view as a model, found no problem with this. There is only one difference: Their High Court of Justice does not intervene, while ours does.

I think the Supreme Court justices erred in referring to an ordinance which applies to Israel, from which they inferred that an Israeli policeman can operate solely on the basis of that ordinance. Furthermore, if the decision says that an Israel Police officer cannot be deployed outside the boundaries of the State of Israel, we have a problem with the legal basis of the police troops in Judaea and Samaria. [end recording]

Minister Shahal did not rule out the possibility that the government would be forced to advise President Clinton next week that it was unable to send a police contingent to Haiti as a result of the High Court's ruling.

Right-Wing Leader: Settlements To Declare Independence

TA2809115794 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Sep 94 p A2

[ITIM report]

[Text] Binyamin Ze'ev Kahana, the leader of the Kahana Hay group, threatened yesterday that "if it is decided to withdraw from areas in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, some settlements will declare independence." Kahana was speaking from his home in Kefar Tapuah, a settlement south of Nabulus. He added that he would like such a step to be taken in coordination and cooperation with the Israeli authorities.

Thus, Kahana actually confirmed the rumors that the idea of a "State of Judaea" was still alive and kicking among extreme right- wing activists in Judaea and Samaria. Kahana also talked about his plan to establish a Jewish settlement in Jordan. He said his men were currently engaged in negotiations to buy the land on which they would build a settlement. They are supposed to buy the land with the permission of the Jordanian authorities.

Kahana said his men were working on the issue, but he refused to elaborate. As for the possibility that the Jordanian Government might prevent such a move, he said: "I do not know to what extent they can bar us from entering Jordan. We are talking about citizens of a third country, a friendly country; most of them hold U.S. passports."

Kahana added that at present the outlawed Kakh and Kahana Hay movements "do not officially exist." He nevertheless pointed out that former members keep in contact and cooperate. "We have been active in the field more than ever before," he said. "We set up new branches, hold rallies, and lecture in private homes. We know that people are on the verge of explosion. There is a lot of hard feelings, frustration, and anger."

Reserves General Criticizes Golan Hunger Strikers

TA2809123994 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 28 Sep 94 p 5

[Report by Tal Shahaf]

[Text] What follows is the sharpest criticism yet leveled at the hunger strikers in Gamla. Reserves Major General Avigdor "Yanush" Ben-Gal [a prominent Labor member and former commander of the Northern Command] does not mince his words: "The hunger strike in Gamla looks innocent, devoid of any political or personal designs, but as has passed I have become convinced that it is a destructive process for the Labor Party and for peace."

According to him, the struggle waged by the heads of the Golan Settlements Committee is sophisticated, planned, and designed to divert public opinion and make it oppose negotiations with Syria. Ben-Gal says: "I appeal to them in the sharpest language—on the ideological rather than personal level—so as to underscore the real importance of the peace process. I wrote my letter with pain and sorrow to disavow the perception that the entire Israeli nation supports their point of view."

Ben-Gal's letter is entitled: "Open Letter to the Inhabitants of the Golan Heights—I Accuse!"

Here is what Ben-Gal writes:

"I accuse you of intellectual dishonesty!

"I accuse you of misleading public opinion!

"I accuse you of rebelling and inciting people against the Israeli Government!

"I accuse you of betraying your movement, the Labor Party!

"I accuse you of sowing dissent and enmity!

"I accuse you of populism and cynicism!

"I am apprehensive, because you are fools, devoid of political understanding, blind, deaf, and obtuse. You do not see, hear, and feel the rare opportunity to make arrangements and sign peace treaties with yesterday's enemies. You were spoiled for many years by your patrons; you became arrogant. You and your leaders are convinced that you belong to Labor's elitist camp.

"That is a lie!!! You do not!!!

"You are furious, and you refuse to accept the fact that your historical role is over. You are furious and resentful.

"You dread losing your unique social relevance. You are afraid of losing your property, possessions, and quality of life.

"I am sorry for you, my friends, for being so blind that you cannot see and understand the new reality.

"You are shackled by yesterday's chains and symbols. You are false prophets, pagans, warmongers, and wreckers of your own social and political movement.

"You are holding your strike in Gamla, but you are not following in the footsteps of its heroes who fought a foreign conqueror and a hostile culture. You belong to the camp of Josephus Flavius, who betrayed his mission and defected to the enemy. You are not Bar-Kokhba but Bar-Koziba [nickname given to Bar-Kokhba after the failure of his rebellion against the Romans, based on a play on the Hebrew word for liar].

"Stop! Or else, you will be blamed for the horrors of another unnecessary act of bloodshed. Be courageous and come back to your senses.

"Signed: Yanush Ben-Gal, reserves major general."

Golan Settlement Committee Demands Development

TA2909083694 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] The Golan Heights Settlement Committee demanded the continued development of the Golan settlements as one of the conditions for ending its current struggle. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the committee contends that the construction of 70 housing units in the settlements of Elrom and 'En Zivan was frozen, the Tapline line was not renewed, and the transfer of mobile homes from the Samaria settlement of Homesh to the Golan settlement of Brukhim was held up.

Committee chairman Yehuda Wolman told our correspondent that he had been told that these decisions were made on political grounds and that one of the committee's conditions for ending the struggle was that the Golan development be continued.

Palestinian Security Chief's Bodyguards Indicted

TA2909100294 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by Bill Hutman]

[Text] The three bodyguards of Palestinian security chief Jibril al-Rujub were formally charged with kidnapping yesterday.

They allegedly took Palestinian TV head Samih Samarah from his room at Jerusalem's American Colony Hotel on September 9 and moved him to Jericho for interrogation about his supposedly immoral activity.

The three, Anwar 'Awad, 22, Matawus Ghannam, 22, and Salah Salah, denied they were involved in the operation.

Their lawyer, Na'ila 'Ata, said she would present a video-taped statement by Samarah clearing her clients of any wrongdoing, at the opening of tomorrow's court proceedings.

"I'm not concerned with whether anyone else did in fact force him to go to Jericho. What I am going to prove is that my three clients were not in any way involved," 'Ata said.

The case has spurred strong reaction from police brass, who vowed to halt the operations of al-Rujub agents in Jerusalem.

IDF Monitoring Soldiers With 'Extreme' Leanings

TA2809102694 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Sep 94 pp 1, 19

[Excerpt] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has been monitoring officers and soldiers identified with the extreme right wing who might join the activities of illegal organizations.

It has been learned that for the past six months the IDF has been taking special precautionary measures to prevent the transfer of weapons, ammunition, and knowhow to unauthorized elements. The Military Police's Criminal Investigation Division [CID] and the Shin Bet have recently increased their cooperation in the monitoring of soldiers who might play an active role in illegal organizations.

Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq ordered these measures—most of which cannot be publicized—following the massacre in the Cave of the Patriarchs, the assessment of IDF and Shin Bet officers that radical Jews might increase their attacks on Arabs, and the attempts of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad members to steal weapons from the IDF or procure them from criminal elements.

The Shin Bet-CID cooperation is coordinated mainly through the IDF regional commands, but a central body set up in the CID coordinates all Military Police operations with the Shin Bet. Knowledgeable sources claim that several illegal operations that were slated to take place in the near future were thwarted thanks to this preemptive activity. [passage omitted]

Defense Forces Develop Light-Weight Body Armor

TA2809184794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has developed the lightest body armor in the world, weighing 6 kg less than other protective vests in use by police and soldiers. The new body armor is just one of a variety of protective systems for men and vehicles currently being tested by members of the Ordinance Branch of the IDF Logistics Corps. More on this and other aspects of the Logistics Corps from our military affairs reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Ben-'Ami] The IDF Logistics Corps supervises development of new weapons systems and equipment for all branches of the Army and provides services that encompass every aspect of maintenance, ordinance, communications, and medical needs for the soldier.

Major General Hagay Shalom, Logistics Corps commander, says its technicians, engineers, and scientists work closely with Israeli defense industries and combat soldiers to produce advanced weaponry and protective systems that will give the Israeli soldier the important edge on today's and tomorrow's battlefield. Close to 500 projects are currently being tested or developed with intensive efforts directed specially towards equipment and vehicle protection that will save soldiers' lives.

[Begin Shalom recording] Of course we have to define what kind of threat we are dealing with, and in accordance with this threat to develop the protection. It is different to protect the soldier in south Lebanon and to protect him in the Gaza Strip. It is different types of threat and types of solutions. [end recording]

The solutions include constantly improved armored protection against everything from stones and petrol bombs to automatic weapons, roadside charges, and explosive devices for the tanks, trucks, armored personnel carriers, and jeeps used by the IDF either in south Lebanon or in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Soldiers are also enjoying better personal protection from new lightweight bullet-proof helmets and flak jackets, including a new 8 kg bullet- proof vest made of Israeli-designed composite materials that weighs 6 kg less than similar body armor around the world.

The Logistics Corps is also the IDF branch with responsibility for building or dismantling army bases. General Shalom says there are no detailed plans ready yet for an IDF redeployment in the West Bank. New bypass roads and security arrangements will be complicated but a necessary requirement for Jewish settlers once agreement is reached about Palestinian autonomy arrangements there. The IDF pullout and redeployment in the Gaza Strip was not as complicated, he says, but even there some work is still underway.

[Begin Shalom recording] We are still working on a couple of projects in the Gaza Strip at both ends of the border, at the Gaza border and around the Qatif Bloc. It is very difficult to do the job because we have a lot of interferences of the Arabs who are living in the area. [end recording]

Sabotage and thefts of building materials by Arabs has cost the Army 500,000 shekels so far, but Gen. Sharon says he hopes the fencing project will be completed by the beginning of next year.

Sources Say Israel May Withdraw From Territories

JN2809132794 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Report by Randah Habib in Amman]

[Excerpt] It has been learned from Western diplomatic sources in Amman that the scheduled meeting between Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan Bin-Talal and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Washington on Monday [3 October] could result in the announcement of an Israeli withdrawal from the Jordanian territories occupied in 1968. The sources said that contacts were held this week between Jordanian officials, specifically Prince Hasan, and Israeli officials to arrange such a withdrawal which, if announced from Washington, will result in a breakthrough in negotiations. For this reason, al-Hasan postponed his visit to Washington, which was scheduled to take place two days ago.

A Jordanian official said that Jordan insists on this withdrawal without waiting for an agreement on the demarcation of borders; an agreement which could take several months. The official said it is important that Israel take such a step because this withdrawal is a precondition for proceeding with the implementation of any bilateral agreements. [passage omitted]

Pakistani Parliamentary Delegation Arrives

JN2809203794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Pakistani National Assembly Speaker (Yusuf Rida Jilani) arrived in Amman this evening. He is leading a parliamentary delegation on a four-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, Jilani will meet with the [Jordanian] Senate president and House of Representatives speaker, as well as a number of officials.

He indicated that his visit to Jordan comes as part of an effort to enhance bilateral relations, and that he will discuss with the Jordanian parliamentarians several issues of common interest. He said Jordanian-Pakistani relations are excellent, particularly in the parliamentary fields. He pointed out that during the conference of the Interparliamentary Union held in Copenhagen, Denmark, he met with a Jordanian parliamentary delegation.

A Jordanian parliamentary delegation recently visited Pakistan, where a number of common issues were discussed.

Minister Confers With Counterparts in New York

JN2809181094 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1510 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] United Nations, 28 Sep (PETRA)—Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, has met with Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahia at the UN headquarters.

Al-Hasan reviewed the phases of the peace process. He stressed both Jordan's commitment to peace and its current role in the peace process, including the signing of joint agenda, which was crowned by the Washington Declaration. He indicated that Jordan was among the first states to participate in Moscow's multilateral meetings.

Al-Hasan and his Tunisian counterpart discussed inter-Arab relations and Jordanian-Tunisian ties. The Jordanian minister of state explained that the coming session of the Arab League heralds Arab detente.

Al-Hasan also met separately with the Slovak, Norwegian, and Argentine foreign ministers. He briefed them on the peace process and its recent developments. The ministers expressed their countries' understanding of Jordan's position on the peace process and voiced their support for the Jordanian role and efforts in this regard.

These meetings were held on the sidelines of the 49th session of the UN General Assembly.

Confers With Saudi Counterpart

JN2809192094 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] In New York, Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, [Jordanian] minister of state for foreign affairs, has met with Saudi Foreign Minister His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. They discussed ways to promote relations between the two fraternal countries in a way that will serve their common interests.

In a statement to the Jordanian News Agency correspondent in New York, al-Hasan said the meeting was cordial, warm, and good. He added that some Arab issues, as well as issues of common interest, were also discussed.

The meeting, which was held on the sidelines of the 49th session of the UN General Assembly, was attended by 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, Jordan's permanent representative at the United Nations.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Latvia

JN2809153094 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Jordan and Latvia have announced the establishment of diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level between the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Republic of Latvia. [passage omitted]

House Speaker on Peace, Palestinian Ties

JN2809162294 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 26 Sep-2 Oct 94 pp 10-12

[Report by Ghassan Sharbal in Amman]

[Excerpt] Jordan cannot ignore what is going on beyond the river. The administrative and legal disengagement between Jordan and the West Bank does not mean that Jordan's future has become isolated or separated from that of the Palestinians. Geographic, demographic, and economic interaction casts its heavy shadow on the future, not to mention the weight of history itself, with all its station and sensitivities. On 13 September 1993, the PLO chose its path and its peace. On 25 July 1994, Jordan also chose its path and its peace. However, Jordanian and Palestinian officials know that this separation is temporary and that final peace will compel both sides to look for a formula of coexistence under the canopy of confederation or some other formula.

At present, Amman prefers to postpone questions about the future and wants the Palestinians to choose their authority and institutions first, especially since the confusion faced by the authorities of the self-rule is no longer a secret. One year after the Gaza-Jericho agreement, more questions keep being raised about financial and administrative difficulties, political differences, and fears related to the elections.

At present, no real coordination is expected. The crisis of confidence between Jordan and the Palestinian leadership is about to become a permanent element in their relations. Amman feels that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is not seeking coordination so as to address the Jordanian authorities from a Palestinian entity controlling large parts of the West Bank. Observers in Amman believe that the current course of developments may not strengthen the Palestinian president's cards.

The preoccupation of the Jordanian political forces with peace developments, as well as the engagement of the opposition in warnings against "normalization," will not prevent Jordanian-Palestinian relations from being the most important file in the next few years. The cards are being prepared, and peace will produce a new map for relations and roles.

Regarding the first question preoccupying Jordanian officials and citizen, Jordanian House of Representatives Speaker Tahir al-Masri said: "After peace was launched and after the principle of negotiations and the expected agreements became acceptable to public opinion and to the influential and ruling factions in Jordan, the results of peace and their absorption have become the primary issue in Jordan's life and possibly in the region's life because openness to Israel will place all of the Arab countries before a new phase. Israel is an organized and institutionalized country facing Arab societies based on one-man-rule systems of government. Liberties are limited, democracy is being exercised in a different way, multi-party systems are almost nonexistent, and planning is very limited. Openness to Israel will lead to such a confrontation. If Jordan fails to fortify itself against the results of peace and the future Israeli onslaught in all areas, our country will be harmed, peace will be used against us, and occupation will return in modern ways. Building a modern state and institutions, the supremacy of law, respecting political pluralism, and economic and social planning should be the main topics with which we will deal in the future. Each of these topics will require huge efforts, as well as the solidarity of the society, including both rightists and leftists and legislative and executive authorities. Solidarity within Jordanian society is necessary to adopt these policies in the face of the coming Israeli expansion and to fortify the Jordanian and Arab society against the results of peace."

Concerning reports that the change in the platforms of Jordanian political parties has been slower than the current changes in the region and how this affects democracy, al-Masri said: I strongly believe in the importance of political and party pluralism and I support this by all means. However, at present, Jordanian political parties are still unable to perform their party duties and enhance their grassroots base. This is due to many factors. Some of these factors have to do with the parties and their leaderships and others have to do with the circumstances and the Jordanian society. People always talk about changing the status quo before parties do. We see that there are continuous divisions within the parties. Moreover, some of them which by virtue of their configuration are not far from the government's polices seem to be rejectionists.

Therefore, the parties are asked to undergo a comprehensive and basic reassessment of their ideas and structure. The state is also asked to help these parties restructure and reorganize themselves not by imposing hegemony and monopolizing the party decision but by promoting democratization. This is because political party pluralism is one of the pillars of democracy and of its perpetuation. We do not want superficial democracy. We want a deeply rooted democracy. With peace, we must review all our policies and all our social, economic, and political issues to see where things have become paralyzed so we can reactivate and modernize them. We must find out where we have gone wrong in order to change our course. It is regrettable that this basic review has not taken place on all popular and official levels.

Commenting on the two issues on which Jordan will be concentrating for the next few years; the issue of redefining Jordan's role in light of peace, and that of outlining its relationship with the Palestinian entity, al-Masri said: My own assessment is that Jordanian-Palestinian relationship is inevitable regardless of the seemingly tense and lukewarm relations today. There are historical and political facts that no Jordanian or Palestinian leadership can ignore. What happened between the Jordanian and Palestinian people cannot be separated or divided. However, we are looking for a political form for this relationship. Confederation is one of the acknowledged forms but no one can now define what a confederation means as this word does not have a specific legal status. A confederation may be announced, but it may be a federation in content. Hence, the issue is subject to the circumstances of the near future. Here, I would like to say that I am one of those who call for safeguarding the Palestinian entity and identity and not for obliterating it, for reasons not related to Jordan or the confederation but for reasons that have to do with Israel and Palestinian rights in Palestine. This is something inevitable and will have to be addressed. The negotiations and their circumstances, Israel's maneuvers, disagreements, sensitivities, and moods are now tampering with this issue. But, the result will be inevitable; a unionist relationship between the two banks.

As for Jordan's role, I do not believe that any Arab country can have a unilateral role considering today's world and regional developments. Moreover, in light of the upcoming peace and relations with Israel no country can assume an effective role on its own. Hence, an Arab meeting is necessary so Arab entities or countries can protect themselves. We must come together. I do not see why a Jordanian should be so far from a Lebanese or why a Syrian should be so far from a Palestinian? If circumstances contributed to this in the past, the current circumstances no longer justify it. There should be a Syrian-Lebanese meeting very soon, followed by a Jordanian-Palestinian meeting, and these meetings should be followed by a Jordanian-Palestinian-Syrian-Lebanese meeting.

I believe in such a thing. I believe that a future grouping is one of the Arab tools to confront the wave we have spoken about. We should not deprecate Israel's political, economic, and cultural, and military power. The principle is well known. The leaders sense the need to regroup more than any time before. I believe that we shall witness such a rapprochement in the future but in degrees, that is a Jordanian-Palestinian rapprochement and a Syrian-Lebanese one, to be followed by rapprochement among the four.

On whether he means a new map in which a Syrian-Lebanese confederation and a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation are realized, he said: "For me, this is something clear, and as I said, we—all in the region, including Israel—are probably passing through a transitional stage, so things are fuzzy and nothing in particular is certain. When the features of the next stage become clear, and this is expected to happen within three or four years, I think this talk will be crystallized more clearly."

Answering a question on whether the creation of the Palestinian entity will present new challenges to national unity in Jordan, he said: "I don't think so, and this should not happen because the Palestinian entity should be set up since the Zionist project has not ended and has not changed. What has changed is its instruments, but its substance has not changed. Therefore, a Palestinian identity and a Palestinian entity should be there to confront the Zionist project, which basically considers all of Palestine and parts of the Arab world the borders of the greater Zionist project or greater Israel. The emergence of the Palestinian entity and identity is fully justified. In Jordan, if we follow the democratic and institutionalized option and the rule of law, everyone will be judged according to his capabilities, and thus, the state can proceed on this basis. Practically, the story of the Jordanian of Jordanian origin and the Jordanian of Palestinian origin is something recent, caused mainly by economic and social disorder. Before that, the people as a whole formed one middle class, and there was political stability, and this subject was not presented in this manner. Regrettably, this subject began to be presented with the disorders that took place, following which everyone tried to preserve his position and interests. If things return to normal, the economic situation improves, and democracy becomes entrenched, these issues will prove to be insignificant."

On the circumstances in which the Palestinian entity is being formed, he said: "It is clear that there are conflicts and dissatisfaction with the policy being followed, but my words do not apply to the details that are taking place at present. I am talking about the next stage and not the next few days. I think that within two years, all these issues will be resolved. The first real step toward resolving differences in the occupied territories is through elections. Elections are important and should be held as soon as possible because elections will introduce the logic of institutions, expand the decisionmaking basis, and give the people the feeling that they are participating and that they are the ones who have the say, in addition to other benefits. We should not forget what the occupation did in the occupied territories and how it destroyed the leadership and infrastructure. The intifadah then came and influenced the internal situation. As for the Palestinian people, they have not been recognized and they have had no real entity since the days of the Ottoman Empire, the mandate, and the occupation. The Palestinian people had never practiced their authority in a certain entity; therefore, it is natural that some issues remain unresolved and disputed, but I think this is temporary. This foggy situation will probably lead to more mistakes and sufferings, and may obstruct or delay progress, but in the end I think things will go on in the right framework."

Regarding the possibility of Iraq's return [to the Arab fold] and its role, he said: "Iraq is part of the region, and there are strong states on its border. Based on this, I hope that the issue of regional powers in the Middle East will not be tampered with at the expense of Iraq. I believe that the new world order will provide some kind of deterrence to any individual regional power. This means that Iraqi force will deter Turkish force, and the latter will deter Iranian force. Iraq will have its role. However, I believe that it will be a regional role, on the Middle East level more than on the Greater Syria level."

Concerning what is being said about Jordan's experience enabling it to prevent the eruption of violent confrontations between the government and the Islamists, and whether such fears still exist, he said: "There has never been a bloody confrontation between the Islamists and the government. Their relationship throughout many decades has been a tug-of-war and has never exceeded its limits. This was entrenched during the democratic era that began in 1989. The Islamic approach has become a democratic one and part of the observed democratic channels. There have been no signs thus far indicating that the Islamists want to deviate from these channels. It is very important, not only for the government and the regime, but also for the other nationalist forces, to keep these channels open with the Islamists so that they will not be pushed into a corner, become extremists, and go underground. It is important to keep the Islamists under the national umbrella as long as they have accepted the constitution, the charter, and pluralism, and agreed to work through democratic channels. In the most recent period, since the Madrid conference and until now, the Islamists have proven that, despite their opposition to peace, they express their opposition through these democratic channels. This also, and you may see this as strange, applies to Hamas in the occupied territories and the self-rule areas, which has developed its political situation and ideas. I believe that someday it will agree to participate in the elections and to deal with facts on the ground. It rejects occupation and the settlement process, but it cannot isolate itself from developments, because it will die politically. I believe that our experiment in Jordan is working well enough and that we will work so that it will continue." [passage omitted]

'Israeli Complaints' About Meeting Rejected

JN2909110894 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29-30 Sep 94 p 12

[Report by a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Text] Amman—Tourism Minister Muhammad al-'Adwan on Wednesday [28 September] rejected Israeli complaints that he failed to turn up for a "trilateral" meeting at the King Husayn Bridge with his counterparts from Egypt and Israel saying no such encounter was planned in the first place.

"There was no plan for such a meeting to start with," Dr. al-'Adwan said. "Therefore there was no question of my attending it either," he told the JORDAN TIMES.

Israeli Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am, in comments after receiving his Egyptian counterpart Mamduh al-Biltaji at the King Husayn Bridge, asserted earlier that Dr. al-'Adwan did not turn up for the purported meeting at the bridge because Jordan did not want to upset the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in Gaza and Jericho by attending a meeting at the bridge, the main crossing point between the occupied West Bank and Jordan.

Mr. al-Biltaji crossed to the West Bank after two days of talks in Amman on Jordanian-Egyptian cooperation in tourism.

Dr. al-'Adwan told the JORDAN TIMES: "The Egyptian minister's visit to Jordan and his talks here were strictly in a bilateral context and had to do with Jordanian-Egyptian relations and cooperation in tourism. There was never any idea for a joint meeting with the Israeli minister, and we did not feel any necessity for such a meeting either."

Dr. al-'Adwan met with Mr. Bar'am in August on the fringes of bilateral Jordanian-Israeli negotiations at an Israeli hotel on the shores on the Dead Sea. Agreement was reached during the meeting on cooperation to attract American tourists to Jordan and Israel in joint package tours.

According to Mr. Bar'am, the Jordanian minister's absence at the purportedly planned meeting at the bridge on Wednesday came because Jordan considered the area as Palestinian territory.

He said Dr. al-'Adwan had sent him a message saying: "I cannot cross the (King Husayn) Bridge now because it is part of the Palestinian authority and I don't want to create problems with the Palestinian authority. I am ready to meet you even tomorrow in al-'Aqabah."

Orly Doron, spokeswoman for Mr. Bar'am, said: "First the Jordanians told us there will be a meeting, then they said it will be only a handshake and all of a sudden Dr. al-'Adwan came to the upper bridge but he did not cross."

Dr. al-'Adwan said that he had always planned to accompany Mr. al-Biltaji to the bridge to see him off from Jordan.

Mr. Bar'am was expected to sign an agreement in principle with Egypt on Wednesday. It will include establishing a resort zone along the Red Sea and joint marketing in Islamic countries as well as the United States.

The Egyptian minister's entourage included six Egyptian businessmen examining possible joint ventures with Israel.

"We will examine the possibilities of increasing our share of regional tourism," Mr. al-Biltaji said.

While in Amman, he invited Jordan to join Egypt, Israel and Turkey in the East Mediterranean Tourism Association set up a year ago to promote the region and improve its infrastructure.

Jordan and Israel have opened a common crossing point for tourists after signing a declaration in Washington in July ending a 46-year state of hostility between them.

Decision on Mosques in West Bank, Jerusalem Viewed

NC2809115794 Paris AFP in English 1116 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Report by Randa Habib]

[Text] Amman, Sept 28 (AFP)—Jordan announced Wednesday [28 September] that it would hand over the administration of Muslim holy sites in the West Bank to the Palestinians but keep control of those in Jerusalem.

The holy city has been at the centre of a row between Amman and the Palestinians since Israel and Jordan signed a joint declaration on 25 July recognising a special Jordanian role in administering Muslim shrines there.

A government statement published here Wednesday said Jordan had decided to "include the waqf (religious property) and religious courts in the West Bank, apart from Jerusalem, in the severance of legal and administrative links between Jordan and the West Bank carried out in 1988."

Jordan has continued to administer the Muslim holy sites in the West Bank and Jerusalem despite breaking off ties with the West Bank, which Israel seized from Jordan in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

The statement said Jordan would maintain its traditional role in the "administration and protection of the holy places in Jerusalem against any danger and to avoid creating a void" in the management of the sites.

A senior Jordanian official told AFP Wednesday Amman "cannot give in on the issue of Jerusalem. That would mean giving up an Arab right for Israel's benefit, since the Palestinian Authority cannot take charge of the religious sites in the holy city now."

The PLO had been forced to "give in to Israeli demands and it excluded Jerusalem from its recent negotiations with Israel in Oslo," the official said.

A conference of donor countries broke down in Paris last month after Israel objected to a Palestinian move to include projects in East Jerusalem among those to be funded by international donors. The PLO later backed down on the issue.

The Palestinians want to make East Jerusalem the capital of a future Palestinian state, but Israel has declared the holy city to be its eternal, undivided capital.

They are to discuss the final status of Jerusalem in negotiations due to start in 1996 at the latest.

The Jordanian official said Amman would "remain firm over its responsibilities in Jerusalem" pending discussions on the city's final status.

Another official here said the decision on Muslim shrines followed an instruction from King Husayn, who "regretted" recent statements and decisions on the holy sites by the Palestinian Authority, and "harassment" of Jordanian religious affairs ministry officials by members of the self-rule body.

The king cited "numerous attempts by certain officials in the Palestinian Authority to create a conflict with the kingdom over its historic and legal role in protecting the Arab and Islamic character of the holy sites."

The Palestinian officials had presented the issue as a "battle of interests" and had named a "minister" for Muslim religious property "without coordinating with Jordan, or even informing Amman in advance," the king was quoted as saying.

King Husayn asked the government to take the necessary steps to "end all attempts to stir up conflict and maintain fraternal relations between the Jordanian and Palestinian people."

Since 1950 Jordan has administered 950 mosques in the West Bank, including 180 in Jerusalem and its outskirts. It pays the salaries of 2,500 officials, including 1,000 in Jerusalem, responsible for looking after the sites.

The role costs Jordan $17 million annually, including $5 million allocated for Jerusalem.

The property in the West Bank includes flashpoints such as the Abraham Mosque in Hebron, where a Jewish settler massacred 29 Palestinian worshippers on 25 February, and the al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, Islam's third holiest site.

Press Said Lagging at Democratization Seminar

JN2809094594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Sep 94 pp 1, 7

[Article by JORDAN TIMES staff reporters P.V. Vivekanand and Samir Barhum]

[Text] Amman—Amidst the democratisation process in Jordan since 1989, the mainstream press of the Kingdom did make progress but did not rise to the level of taking the initiative and contributing to creative changes, four prominent journalists agreed Tuesday [27 September].

While the number of publications, including tabloids and political party newspapers, has gone up dramatically in the last five years, the three established newspapers remained mostly entrenched in the traditional approach to their coverage of news, they said.

Nabil al-Sharif, chief editor of AL-DUSTUR, Fahd al-Fanik a leading AL-RA'Y columnist, Lamis Andoni, a JORDAN TIMES reporter and the Amman correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor, and George Hawatimah, chief editor of the JORDAN TIMES, made the point at a two-day seminar on "The Role of the Media in a Democracy—the Case of Jordan."

Also discussed in the morning and afternoon sessions of the seminar, organised by the Centre for Strategic Studies of the University of Jordan, and funded by a grant from the Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung, a German institution, was the role of Jordan Television and Radio and media coverage of the Middle East peace process in the Jordanian media.

In the morning session, chaired by Dr. Sima Bahus, media and development consultant, Mr. Hawatimah presented an overview of the changes that the Jordanian media scene witnessed in the past four years.

Mr. Hawatimah drew a clear distinction between the three pre-1989 Arabic language newspapers—AL-RA'Y, AL-DUSTUR, AND SAWT AL-SHA'B—and the tabloids and weeklies that came to the scene since then and noted that the post-1989 publications accounted for only 10 per cent of the total Jordanian readership.

As such, the JORDAN TIMES chief editor argued, any assessment of change has to be based on the performance of the three newspapers in pre-1989 days and today.

Mr. Hawatimah said that if the yardstick for measuring change as based on "the pursuit of truth," then the papers have achieved very little.

"With an official mentality that sees the truth as none other than the safeguarding of the security of the state, and a mainstream press that knows the limits of its power, it will take journalism some years, if we are on the optimistic side, to adopt the pursuit of truth as its mission," Mr. Hawatimah said.

Similarly, if one were to assess the Jordanian media in terms of substances, the progress in the last four years has been minimal, he said.

On the other hand, if quality and quantity were the measurements, then the Jordanian media have indeed made remarkable progress, he said.

It has to be remembered that the entire change, positive or negative, has taken place in a "higher plateau," Mr. Hawatimah said, referring to the general elections of 1989 and 1993, the reintroduction of a multi-party political system and the emergence of a vibrant parliament in the Kingdom.

Mr. Hawatimah attributed what he saw as the lack of meaningful progress on the part of the three mainstream newspapers to five distinct reasons. They were:

—There has been little change in the people, including the top editors, in the mainstream press. "The hierarchy moved at the same pace as the regime did," he said. "It was going to be a peaceful, slow process of change, Some even thought the democratisation process was not real."

—The three main newspapers were still in the majority owned by the government, with top two, AL-RA'Y and AL-DUSTUR, continuing to thrive economically and financially. "The shareholders, represented by the board of directors which appoints the editors-in-chief, saw neither a reason to rock the boat, nor solid competition to force change, SAWT AL-SHA'B, which has been losing money consistently, was content to receive subsidy from the state in return for towing the line."

—The rank and file journalists of these newspapers detected a stalemate, or a certain complacency, but they were powerless to change things. The Jordan Press Association was at no time available to help the cause.

—While the democratisation of Jordan has brought more freedom and independence for the press, the progress has not heralded the advent of institution-building where journalism was concerned. "I am talking about a press club, a press institute or a press foundation, basically organizations which concern themselves with the rights and responsibilities of the news media. Newspapers will never be able to do this on their own," Mr. Hawatimah said.

—The new Press and Publications Law enacted in 1993 imposed legal restrictions on the forward movement of the Jordanian press.

"But more importantly, perhaps, it is in the political and socio-economic fields that the leaders of the press have failed to find themselves, to establish policies for their newspapers," Mr. Hawatimah added.

Mr. al-Sharif of AL-DUSTUR, in his working paper, tackled the issue of the coverage of opposition in the Jordanian media.

Mr. al-Sharif noted that the government continues to own partial but significant shares of newspapers and said that this constitutes an obstacle to the papers' editors exercising free options in extending liberal coverage of opposition parties' activities.

Another hurdle, he said, was the social structure, "which makes it difficult to criticise any individual in Jordan since such criticism would be taken as leveled against the particular tribe of that individual, who does not make any distinction between his post and his person."

Furthermore, said Mr. al-Sharif, journalists are still affected by the martial rule era.

Miss Andoni tackled investigative reporting in her paper. She stressed that it was untrue that the media in the West is granted more freedom than the Arab media.

Noting that the Jordanian Government in the past used to restrict the freedom of the press by citing national interests, Ms. Andoni said the development of journalism and investigative reporting was linked to development in the field of public freedoms.

She distinguished between leakage of information and investigative reporting, saying the "leakage" of information makes journalists as a tool by those leaking information to hit at other sides and their interests.

Ms. Andoni said that the martial rule era in Jordan has negatively affected the generally psychological conditions of journalists by being a main source of anxiety for them and causing them the feeling of being professionally insecure.

Dr. al-Fanik, a columnist for AL-RA'Y and the JORDAN TIMES, dealt in his paper with coverage of economic news and corruption cases.

Dr. al-Fanik said the Jordanian press enjoys a reasonable margin of the freedom of expression and the freedom to criticise, especially since the democratisation process started in 1989, admitting that this freedom was not fully exploited. He attributed this to the pre-1989 era.

He said the Jordanian press gives due coverage space for economic news, but that the coverage mostly relies on outside sources such as foreign news agencies. Thus the Jordanian press publishes reports about foreign financial markets, exchange rates and gold prices in foreign countries because of the unavailability of local economic news, he pointed out.

Dr. al-Fanik said Jordan had only a limited number of part-time economic writers, and there are almost no full time economy editors at the local newspapers. He concluded that these editors very often commit grave mistakes when they misunderstand some economic news.

The columnist said that while the daily Jordanian press avoid tackling corruption issues because of lack of evidence to corroborate the stories and to avoid legal and tribal risks, weekly newspapers welcome publishing any such stories without hesitation to help increase their circultion.

Thus, he said, dealing with corruption by the press is either one of two extremes—either publishing without verifying news, or ignoring corruption because of the risks.

Dr. al-Fanik also said that the Jordanian public opinion tends to believe corruption charges without evidence, and consequently those charged (by the press) are indicted by the public until proven innocent.

He concluded by saying that democracy was the most healthy atmosphere for preventing corruption because a free press can detect it. He theorised that the budding democracy in Jordan and the hesitation of the press in carrying out its duties in fighting corruption or in handling corruption issues hastily and irresponsibly makes them an easy target for corrupt officials instead of having the opposite effect.

At the outset of the seminar, Director of the University of Jordan's Centre for Strategic Studies Mustafa Hamarinah asserted that the press can play a key role in strengthening democracy.

Reviewing the centre's philosophes, Dr. Hamarinah said organising the seminar reflected the centre's keenness to deal with issues of concern to the society and to handle them in a scientific and well-studied manner.

The role of Jordan Television and Radio was dealt with in the afternoon session.

Presenting working papers on the subject were Radi Alkhas, who served as head of the Jordan Broadcasting Corporation between 1989 and June 1994, and Jawad Zada, a senior official at Jordan Radio.

In essence, both papers said without financial and administrative independence of the broadcasting corporation, it was an impossible task to bring about dramatic changes in the approach at television and radio, which, for all technical and practical purposes, are an arm of the government.

Mr. Alkhas, who now heads a private sector media organisation, said he had tried to introduce changes during his tenure at the broadcasting corporation, but found the task too hard in the absence of financial and administrative autonomy.

A session on the coverage of the peace process in the Jordanian media concluded the day's deliberations of the seminar (details of that session will be reported in tomorrow's issue of the JORDAN TIMES.

Paper Commends Decision on West Bank Awqafs

JN2809120994 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 28 Sep 94 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Firmly Established Brotherly Relations on the Two Banks of the Eternal River"]

[Text] It was quite natural for Jordan to take the initiative to preempt any attempt to fabricate a dispute with it over the legitimate historical Jordanian role in maintaining the Arab and Islamic character of the holy places in the occupied territories. It was also quite natural for Jordan to take measures that would put an end to this dispute. Hence, it decided to apply the decision severing administrative and legal links with the West Bank to the awqaf [Islamic endowments] directorates and Islamic courts throughout the West Bank except holy Jerusalem.

At a time when Jordan continued to shoulder its heavy responsibility toward the Islamic awqaf in the occupied territories, some statements, stands, decisions, and attempts were made by some Palestinian Authority officials, depicting things as if there were a dispute over jurisdictions and responsibilities toward the awqaf and Islamic courts. This harms the historical Hashemite role which continued to take care of the holy places and support people in the West Bank. Such a situation is unacceptable to Jordan, especially since it is bound to create a vacuum and would subject the Islamic holy places to grave consequences.

Therefore, Jordan took this step within two specific frameworks, each of which represents an important Jordanian political constant. First, any decision made in this regard should not, in any way, have any bearing on the brotherly Palestinian-Jordanian ties, or on the support and facilities Jordan is extending to the kinfolk in all fields. Second, the Jordanian legal and administrative responsibility toward Islamic awqaf and holy places and Islamic courts in holy Jerusalem should continue.

Jordan's keenness on maintaining brotherly and solidarity ties with the people in the occupied lands, and continuing its support for them is not subject to daily political changes and cannot be affected by any possible developments in this respect. Excluding Jerusalem from this decision is due to the special status this eternal city is given by all Arabs and Muslims, and is also due to the importance of maintaining the Hashemite religious and historical jurisdiction over the city's holy places. These places will thus be protected against any danger, and any vacuum that might be created and used to inflict the severest damage on all will be averted.

We commend the Council of Ministers for taking this wise step, which we believe is a continuation of a special Jordanian approach that has always been characterized by pan-Arab care and responsibility. We also praise the government's principled decision, upon the directives of His Majesty King Husayn, to guarantee the rights of the staff of the awqaf directorates and Islamic courts in the West Bank in accordance with prevailing laws and regulations. We greatly value this concern to continue to support the kinfolk with all possible means, and not to allow any party to harm the firmly established relationship between the two brotherly peoples on the two banks of the eternal river.

Writer Praises Reported Violation of UN Embargo

JN2809143594 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 28 Sep 94 p 24

["Everyday" column by Tariq Masarwah: "A Gladdening Piece of News"]

[Text] If the report in the British INDEPENDENT is true, Iran may have broken the embargo imposed on Iraq, thus following Turkey's lead. This leaves only the Arabs actively besieging their brethren.

The deal reported in the INDEPENDENT is an oil agreement worth $360 million. The agreement is said to be among Iranian and Iraqi representatives and businessmen from some East European countries. Iraqi oil will be bought, exported through Khanaqin to Iranian ports, and then moved to the markets.

This deal is neither part of "doing business" [preceding word in English], nor is it similar to the Turkish protest taking the form of "border trade" and "the flushing of pipes." It cannot be compared to what the Arabs have done because the Arabs boycotted Iraq even before the United States. If the story is true, the Iranian move contradicts the principle of "double containment," the policy being applied by Washington against Iraq and Iran with the aim of besieging and harming both countries. The principle is contingent on the enmity between them far exceeding their enmity against the United States.

Washington cannot manipulate the interests and destinies of peoples just as it wishes. It is not the policeman of the world. The nations of the world are not necessarily submissive to, intimidated by, or susceptible to U.S. hegemony. If Washington is seeking, by striking Iraq, to bring the Arab nation to its knees and setting a precedent to intimidate any country that rejects hegemony, then regional powers like Iran, Turkey, and Iraq must to work together to break this rule. They should reject U.S. hegemony and restore balance to the new world order since the old balances have been shaken and the old standards lost.

North Korea stood against threats and the belligerent American was obliged to find a moderate formula to approach Pyongyang. Despite all hardships, Cuba is standing now in the face of a 30-year blockade. Fidel Castro is offering his head in order to preserve Cuba, its achievements, and the socialist system.

Nothing prevents Iran, despite the rivers of blood, from standing with Iraq, since both countries are targeted by the containment policy. Likewise, nothing prevents Turkey from pursuing its interests with Iraq, which are greater than its interests with the United States. Nothing prevents Arabs from declaring that the 20 million Iraqi people are their kith and kin and that they cannot starve or impoverish them.

We hope that the British newspaper is correct because Iraq's legendary endurance should meet a happy reward.

Army Command Denies South African Weapons Deal

NC2809133094 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 22 Sep 94 p 6

[Excerpt] A military source has denied that Lebanon bought arms from South Africa. The source stressed that the Army Command has no knowledge of this. [passage omitted]

Banning of Kurdish News Conference Praised

NC2809182294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Turkish Foreign Ministry Spokesman Ferhat Ataman has expressed his country's satisfaction with the Lebanese authorities' prevention of a news conference the leader of the Kurdish rebels in Turkey intended to hold in Lebanon's al-Biqa' Valley in the next few days. He said Turkey reminded Syria and Lebanon of their pledges not to allow anti-Turkish activity on their territories.

CIA Said 'Present' in Most Lebanese Establishments

NC2809182394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that the United States has ambassadors from among the Lebanese that serve it more than its own ambassador. He said the CIA is present in most of Lebanon's political, security, economic, cultural, and even religious establishments.

U.S. Envoy Decides Not To Return to Post

NC2909074994 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Lebanon has received official information that U.S. Ambassador Mark Hambley will not return to his post in Beirut for health reasons.

Reportage on Combat Clashes With Israelis

Child Hurt, Houses Damaged

NC2809183894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Israeli occupation forces escalated their acts of aggression against southern Lebanon this afternoon. The result so far has been an injured child, several fires, and a number of damaged houses. According to the latest security reports we received from the south, the towns of Majdal Silm, Tulin, Qabrikha, al-Sawwanah, and Shaqra' have been coming under fierce and intensive Israeli artillery bombardment with 150-mm and 120-mm shells since 1600. In Majdal Silm, child Hasan 'Ala'-al-Din was injured when a bomb fell on his family's house and some plantation fields caught fire. A large number of houses were damaged in the shelling against Shaqra'.

The Israeli shelling also targeted Kafr Tibnit-Arnun Road, and it was still continuing fiercely when this bulletin was being prepared. The Israeli forces in al-Zaffatah earlier shelled the outer parts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Mazra'at al-Hamra', al-Ghanduriayh, and (?Frun). The Israeli forces in al-Tayyibah also shelled the Litani River basin and Wadi al-Saluqi. Al-Jabal al- Rafi', al-Wadi al-Akhdar, and 'Arab Salim also came under violent artillery shelling originating from the occupation positions in Sujud.

Meanwhile, Israeli helicopters flew law over Shaqra' and Bra'shit in the central sector at noon today, and warplanes flew over the south and Beirut, twice breaking the sound barrier.

[In a related report, Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1715 GMT on 28 September adds: "At 1545 today, the resistance shelled the positions of Tallusah and Markaba with 10 Katyusha rockets. It attacked the two positions again at 1730. At 1445 resistance men attacked al-Qantarah position using machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades."]

Missiles Fired at Aircraft

NC2909075294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Three people were injured as a result of Israeli shelling of villages near the occupied town of Tallusah yesterday. The bombardment destroyed several homes and damaged many cars. The resistance retaliated by firing Katyusha rockets at the Israeli posts in the occupied border strip.

The Israeli forces yesterday bombarded the villages of Majal Silm, Tulin, Qabrikha, al-Sawwanah, Shaqra, injuring a child in Majal Silm and damaging several homes in these villages. Several fires broke out in fields and crops.

The Islamic Resistance declared that this morning it confronted hostile aircraft that were flying over the villages of Shaqra and Majdal Silm, firing Sam-7 missiles and forcing them to retreat without carrying out their mission.

The Israeli shelling reached the villages of Kafr Tibnit, the outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Mazra'at al- Hamra', al-Ghanduriyah, Frun, the al-Litani river basin, Wadi al- Saluqi, Jabal al-Rafi', al-Wadi al-Akhdar, and 'Arab Salim,

Citing agent Lahd militia [South Lebanese Army, SLA] radio, AFP reported that several rockets were fired at positions in the occupied border strip yesterday.

Israeli Shelling, Overflights Noted

NC2909092494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] The Israeli artillery emplacements located in 'Alman bombarded the Mazra'at al-Hamra' and the al-Litani River basin at 0400 today with 120-mm and 82-mm mortar rounds. The bombardment reached Jabal al-Rafi' in Iqlim al-Tuffah. The outskirts of Bra'shit and 'Ayta al-Jabal came under artillery barrage during the night. Israeli helicopters flew over Bra'shit. The resistance announced that it retaliated by launching an assault on the Markaba post inside the occupied border strip with rockets and mortar fire.

According to a UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] officer, no fewer than 10 homes were damaged last night as a result of the bombardment of Majdal Silm. Many cars were also damaged. According to security sources more than 150 shells of various calibers were fired in the direction of Majdal Silm and Wadi Tallusah.

Cabinet Approves Draft Budget for 1995

NC2809212294 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] The cabinet approved the draft budget for 1995, which stands at 5.5 billion Lebanese pounds [one US dollar equals approximately 1,668 Lebanese pounds at current exchange rate in Beirut]. Revenues are estimated at 3.15 billion pounds, representing a deficit of 42.75 percent.

Prime Minister al-Hariri declared that subscription in dollar treasury bonds [issued by the Lebanese Government] will have positive results. He described the subject as very important and as representing a victory for Lebanon. It has opened a new door enabling it to obtain a cash flow to implement the projects approved by the cabinet. He affirmed that the popular markets are a serious attempt to reduce prices.

The cabinet meeting was held at B'abda Palace at 1800 today. It was presided over by President Ilyas al-Hariri and attended by Prime Minister al-Hariri.

Travel Agents Said To Attend Regional Tourism Talks

JN2809144694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Syria has for the first time participated in a regional conference to promote tourism. This conference began in Cairo today with the participation of Israel.

The organizers of the conference said eight representatives from six Syrian travel agencies are taking part in these meetings, held under the supervision of the Economic Cooperation Committee of the multilateral negotiations in the Middle East.

The two-day conference is designed to discuss the scope of tourism in the Middle East.

Participation Denied

JN2809190094 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] The new horizons for tourism in the new Middle East is the topic of the regional conference that began in Cairo today. The announcement on the participation of a Syrian delegation side-by-side with an Israeli delegation has given the conference an extraordinary dimension, particularly since Syria and Lebanon have boycotted the multilateral talks within whose framework this meeting is taking place.

Syria quickly denied—through SANA [the Syrian News Agency]—its participation in this meeting. However, before this denial was transmitted, news agencies cited the organizers of this meeting as saying that eight representatives from six Syrian travel agencies are participating in the Cairo meeting.

(Erlyn Kuzi), chairwoman of the American Travel Agencies Association, said at a press conference in Cairo today: We are proud to announce that Syria is participating in this conference, which is considered a decisive step on the path toward peace in the Middle East.

Reports said that, in addition to Syria and Israel, tourism experts from 10 Middle Eastern countries, including Lebanon, are taking part in this two-day meeting.

In Damascus, the Association of Tourism and Travel Agents in Syria denied the reports on the participation of Syrian tourism and travel agencies in the Cairo conference. A statement issued by the Syrian association, which was transmitted by SANA, said that the Association of Tourism and Travel Agents in Syria announces that it did not and will not participate in this conference in accordance with the Syrian stand calling for not participating in the multilateral talks, or in any similar talks, before achieving essential, tangible, and real progress in the bilateral talks.

Al-Shar' Arrives in New York for UN Session

JN2809211694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in New York today to attend the 49th session of the UN General Assembly. He will also meet with the foreign ministers of brotherly and friendly states. Al-Shar' will confer with the foreign ministers of Arab, nonaligned, and Islamic Conference Organization countries, as well as the Group of 77 states, on the sidelines of the General Assembly session.

Al-Shar' is to deliver Syria's speech before the General Assembly next Monday morning [3 October].

Talas Meets Russian Military Academy Commander

JN2809203994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Lieutenant General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, this evening received General (Vladimir Vasil'yev Kopoleonos), commander of the Russian Military Air Force Academy, and his accompanying delegation. The talks dealt with relations of cooperation between the armies of both friendly countries in the fields of training and preparation, as well as ways to develop these relations to serve the interests of both Syria and Russia.

DPRK Official Interviewed on Nuclear Crisis

JN2809200294 Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 22 Sep 94 p 10

[Interview with (Chae Zay Yi-yong), deputy chairman of the International Affairs Bureau of the Central Committee of the Korean Workers Party, by 'Ali al-Siwan, in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [al-Siwan] The United States has sought to subject your country to a regime of nuclear inspection, thus triggering a crisis. Is the crisis over? How do you view the West's exempting Israel from nuclear inspection?

[(Chae)] Regarding the nuclear problem, high-level Korean-American talks were held in Geneva in August. After the talks, a statement was issued noting that agreement was reached on replacing the granite reactor with a light water system reactor to be supplied by the United States. An agreement was also reached on setting up diplomatic legations in each other's capitals. The United States, according to the statement, agreed to lower the barrier on trade and investment in our country.

The DPRK would also retain its membership in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. We also showed our readiness to implement the assurances agreement within the framework of a comprehensive settlement along the lines we proposed.

Contacts and meetings have been going on at the expert level since 10 September in Pyongyang and Berlin about diplomatic representation and a light water system reactor.

The point is how serious the United States' commitment is to the Geneva statement, especially with regard to supplying us with the light water system reactor. When the United States shows good faith in implementation, everything will be sorted out.

We believe that exempting Israel from nuclear inspection is an example of a policy of double standards.

The West never says a word about Israel, which has nuclear weapons. In contrast, the West raises a fuss over the so-called nuclear inspection in Korea, which has not produced a single nuclear weapon. It is a case of double standards—a policy that the West should abandon. [passage omitted]

Clinton's 'Surprise' Nuclear Policy Assailed

JN2809164694 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 23 Sep 94 p 3

["With the Events" column by Bassam Hashim: "The Rehabilitation of an Old Policy"]

[Text] In a surprise move reported by the news media, President Clinton has decided to maintain the nuclear policy of his Republican predecessor former President George Bush. He has decided to keep the "last resort" option, which allows for the deployment of nuclear weapons in Europe for use in case the United States becomes the target of a potential attack.

Is Clinton reneging on previous stands, or is he reconsidering these stands? Is this a reflection of growing fears, or an instinctive desire to promote the single-handed control of the course of events? The questions on the motives behind this U.S. move are endless. It is difficult to find any excuse for recreating the climate of the Cold War and pumping new life into the monstrous "balance of terror" that haunted mankind for several decades. Were the hopes that were nurtured by the declaration of the end of the arms race a total farce? Is it impossible to ignore the influence of pressure groups, to defeat the armies of analysts and technocrats, and neutralize the might of the industrial-military complex, which thrives on people's misery and sucks the blood of innocent and secure people who wish to live in peace?

There is no denying that the nuclear arms issue is primarily a political one, and that the numerous accomplishments scored to ease tensions and reduce the chances for military confrontation in various parts of the world have promoted the adoption of peaceful means to address conflicts. Moreover, the abolishment of the Soviet Union has neutralized many factors, and allowed the Western camp to pursue a containment policy using various kinds of increasing pressure. The United States' enemy disappeared, and so did the justifications for extermination, mass killing, and complete annihilation, or so we thought. What are the moral and political justifications for keeping a nuclear arsenal, particularly since some have been convinced of its uselessness? What has become of the fate of the pledges and agreements to turn the remnants of these weapons into "scrap"?

The Ukraine has abandoned its nuclear arsenal. The DPRK is negotiating to resolve its row with the United States in this regard. France and the PRC have announced a halt to their nuclear testing in accordance with specific timetables. Pakistan is now coming under pressures in this regard. Will the United States dare renege on firm pledges made over the past four years?

What will be the reaction of the states currently experiencing social, political, and cultural upheavals, which could produce the worst manifestations of nationalistic, ethnic, and sectarian chauvinism?

Such an uncalculated move undoubtedly reflects U.S. arrogance, which has been boosted by easy victories in weak parts of this world—the victories that are bound to have catastrophic repercussions on volatile flash points, such as the Balkans, Central Asia, the Mediterranean region, and Russia, which is embroiled in geographic and historical nightmares.

Such a move is bound to revive the feverish arms race. It will halt the march to defuse wars and crises, particularly since this march has been left unprotected. This move will recreate the climate of tension and the specter of death that has loomed larger than life for centuries—tension created by premeditated intentions hidden behind smokescreens of falsehoods and lies. The United States is about to defeat this march in a moment of arrogance and egotism.

Israel Said Blocking Christopher's New Ideas

JN2809085694 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 28 Sep 94

[From the press review]

[Text] In an editorial entitled "New Evidence," AL-THAWRAH newspaper says: Once again Israel furnishes new evidence of its evasion of the requisites of just peace and its continued obstruction of efforts to advance and activate the peace process on the Syrian and Israeli tracks.

The Israeli evidence was represented in the affirmation of Israel's commitment to the settlement policy and the renewed talk on the so-called referendum on the fate of the occupied Golan. Yitzhaq Rabin has ordered the expansion of a settlement in the West Bank, in a clear hint of his rejection of full withdrawal and to block any new and serious ideas that Christopher will bring with him to break the stalemate in the peace process caused by the obstinate Israeli policy.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Within the framework of Israeli policy of evading peace requisites, Israel renewed hints of a referendum on withdrawal from the Golan.

AL-THAWRAH emphasized that the renewed Israeli talk on settlements, and a referendum on the future of the Golan, are a reminder of the obstructive approach and a play for time by the Shamir government in an attempt to impose the status quo on the Arabs and abort the peace process. This is evidence that what Israel wants is not real peace but the entrenchment of the occupation through partial solutions based on a fait accompli in the form of settlement construction in the occupied Arab territories and artificial referendum on the Golan. The aim here is to continue occupation under the pretext that the Israelis reject withdrawal from the Golan or only accept partial and limited withdrawal.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: It should be emphasized that forcing Israel to accept a just peace and its requisites, led by full and unconditional withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, will continue to be the main condition for progress in the peace process and ending the stalemate caused by the intransigent Israeli policy.

Commentary: Israel Still Can Change Stand

JN2809161994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1136 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Not a single day passes without Israel announcing new ideas and proposals that do not in any way contribute to progress in the peace process. Israel's statements about pushing the peace process forward have become boring and redundant. Moreover, Israel's stands and maneuvers on the prospects and results of peace have been exposed. This indicates that Israel is still far from the principles of a real, just, and comprehensive peace and that it is still wagering on keeping the occupied Arab territories under security pretexts and justifications at the expense of Arab rights and international laws.

On the other hand, everyone will testify that, according to its stand, Syria is eager to continue the peace process, to overcome all obstacles facing this process, and to remove all the mines laid in its way. The purpose of this is to achieve stability in the region and to attain the desired and noble objectives through the achievement of peace, which can only come through positive and sincere treatment of the components and basic requirements of a just and comprehensive peace.

There is no doubt that the political efforts exerted recently, as well as all those exerted since the Madrid conference three years ago, could have yielded positive results had Israel dealt in a constructive spirit with the bases and requirements of this peace process. These bases, since the beginning, have been reiterated, outlined, and defined by the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Despite this, and in light of the recent U.S. and international effort, there is still a chance for Israel to review its stand, rectify its negotiating course—especially on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks—and respond to the requirement of a full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. This is because those who reject withdrawal do not want peace to be achieved in the region and do not want justice and legitimacy to prevail in the Middle East. This is manifested in Israel's provocative practices in the Golan and southern Lebanon, whether through the occupation forces or through the settlers and extremist Israeli organizations.

From this premise, the ball is still in the Israeli court because peace does not need statements so much as it needs practical stands on the ground. Practical measures are needed to extricate the peace process from the stalemate it is facing, to put an end to the provocations, and to find the means to dismantle the settlements and evacuate the settlers from our Arab territories in the Golan and southern Lebanon.

Syria has repeatedly stated that the Golan is not a subject for bargaining. It is Syrian Arab territory that must return to its owners so its people can return to it. Syria will not in any way concede an inch of its territories or agree to relinquish any of its rights. All Israel has to do is openly prove its commitment and practical pledge to exchange land for peace and its determination to fully end its occupation of the Golan, southern Lebanon, and the western al-Biqa'.

Events and facts show that Syria always does what it says and is sincere in its policy. Syria will not in any way be dragged into overloading the peace process with extraneous element, because this would pose a danger to the peace process itself and to the stability of the situation in the region.

Based on this, the resolutions of international legitimacy first called for ending the occupation. Syria dealt in a positive and constructive spirit with these resolutions and has been fully committed to them. Based on these resolutions, Syria formulated the principle of full withdrawal in exchange for comprehensive peace.

Any talk about peace that does not proceed from this is an illusion and self-deception. This is because Syria will not allow anyone to play with the fate of our occupied territories or to decide on its behalf the future of these territories. Syria owns the right to these territories and knows how this right will be restored.

Afghanistan

Rahmani Chairs Council of Ministers Meeting

LD2809215294 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] The High Council of Ministers, chaired by esteemed Mowlawi Mohammad Arsalan Rahmani, the deputy prime minister, held a session today.

The press office of the Council of Ministers reported to the Bakhtar Information Agency that the session discussed practical steps and measures regarding the duties assigned to the esteemed ministers by the consultative session of the cabinet, at which the esteemed president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan took part. The following has been decided by the session:

A delegation consisting of the minister of high and vocational education, the deputy minister of defense, and the acting minister of labor and social affairs, are being assigned to specify the duties of the security organs, to prepare a draft on the satisfactory maintenance of security in government departments and enterprises, as well as the security of Kabul, to bring about coordination in security tasks, and to enhance the effectiveness and quality of security affairs.

A commission consisting of esteemed Sayed Eshaq Deljo Hussaini, acting minister of information and culture, esteemed Mohammadollah Naqed, acting minister of martyrs and disabled, esteemed Marajoddin Kharoti, acting minister of justice, and esteemed Mowlawi Jalilollah, head of organization at the Prime Ministry, is being set up and assigned to consider organizational issues [passage indistinct].

A commission consisting of esteemed Abdol Ghafar (?Sa'el), acting minister of transport, esteemed Rahmatollah Wahedyar, acting minister of refugees affairs, and Mohammad Sediq Chakari, acting minister of border affairs, and led by esteemed Mowlawi Mohammad Arsalan Rahmani, the deputy prime minister, has been set up to take specific measures to attract cooperation of the national traders, private sectors, friendly and fraternal countries in order to supply and transport basic material and fuel to Kabul citizens before the arrival of winter, and to open roads for communication roads.

Factional Fighting in Kabul Region Continues

BK2809135394 Hong Kong AFP in English 1344 GMT 28 Sep 94

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, Sept 28 (AFP)—Fierce fighting continued in south Kabul Wednesday around the University and the Scud missile base, parts of which have been captured by coalition forces opposing Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani, according to military sources.

"We saw a convoy of trucks carrying away ammuntion and other supplies from the Scud base yesterday (Tuesday)," said locals who fled the fighting in south Kabul.

Meanwhile the official Bakhtar news agency said the death toll in Tuesday's rocket attacks had reached 65. Some 224 people were wounded when rockets crashed into several Kabul districts, they said.

The 65 dead included 20 guests of a wedding party in Qalai Fathullah district, it said, as rockets at a reduced intensity Wednesday continued to slam Kabul.

UN Sources in Islamabad said Tuesday that 40 people were killed when one of the rockets exploded in a house during a wedding ceremony.

The rockets came as the Shiite Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement] faction lost part of the former Russian Scud base in the heavy fighting Monday. Some reports said they had lost the entire base.

However, with the help of Rabbani's Jam'iyat-e Eslami [Islamic Society] forces they were said to have re-taken at least half of the base by Wednesday afternoon.

Harakat's Shiite rivals Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party] stormed the Scud base with the help of their Pushtun allies, Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] faction, striking from their positions in Darulaman Palace and Tajbeg Hill further east.

The battle between Harakat and Wahdat started 15 days ago as an internecine Shiite conflict, but has now expanded to include all major factions in the struggle for Afghan supremacy.

Hezb-e Eslami and Wahdat forces launched a heavy artillery bombardment Wednesady to the west of the Scud base along the south-bound national highway where Rabbani's allies, the Ittihad-e Eslami faction of Rasool Sayyaf, are based.

It is from this direction that Rabbani's infantry reinforcements for Harakat are being delivered.

In the adjacent western district of Dashti Barchi there was sporadic trading of heavy artillery fire between Harakat and Wahdat, in which an architectural landmark from the period of former King Amanullah, recently a contested frontline stronghold, was completely devoured by flames late Wednesday.

Heavy fighting also continued around the Kabul University, in particular the Institute of Technology, from where Wahdat fighters deny pro-Rabbani troops complete control of the campus.

Pro-Rabbani heavy weapons based on the top of the central city mountain-chain, mainly anti-aircraft cannon, shelled Wahdat positions near the University, while long-range rockets were fired against Hezb-e Eslami on the eastern frontlines.

There has been little infantry activity in the eastern flank since the fighting began in south Kabul.

100 Militiamen Captured in Konduz Province

LD2809172494 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] In the course of a counterattack launched by the Mojahedin, 100 men attached to Golboddin-Dostam militia were captured in the Zerdala] area of Konduz. A security source told the Bakhtar that during a counterattack launched in Zerdalak area, the Mojahedin captured 100 of the Golboddin-Dostam militiaman. In the course of this operation the Zerdalak area was cleared of militia. During this counterattack the Mojahedin seized five tanks.

India

Delhi To Send 700 Troops for Peacekeeping in Rwanda

BK2809150694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] India is sending a contingent of 700 troops for UN peacekeeping operations in Rwanda. A Defense Ministry announcement in New Delhi today said the advance party of 300 troops will fly to the Rwandan capital, Kigali, from Bombay tonight. The remaining troops will reach Rwanda in a month's time to raise the presence to battalion strength. The mandate of the Indian contingent will be confined to peacekeeping operations and coordination of humanitarian assistance. It will be commanded by Colonel M.K. Singh. Indian troops [are] already deployed for peacekeeping operations in Somalia.

General Makes Accusation on UN Peacekeeping

BK2909004894 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES (SUNDAY MAGAZINE) in English 25 Sep 94 p 4

[Article by Rita Manchanda: "More Indian Blue Berets"]

[Text] On the day the UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali was here in New Delhi appealing for more Indian troops for UN peace keeping operations, the Army Chief, General B.C. Joshi was shown on Doordarshan [television] saying that Indian "casualties" in Somalia were inflicted, either directly or indirectly, by elements "jealous" of the performance of Indian peace keeping troops in Somalia. No names were taken, but the implication was clear—Pakistan. Indian and Pakistani troops were operating in separate areas in Somalia but there was the indirect option of hiring snipers.

The Indians had won laurels in Somalia while the Pakistani peace keepers had become mired in a controversy over the use of extreme UN sanctioned force for peace enforcing and not peace keeping. Just weeks before the arrival of Indian troops, 24 Pakistani peace keepers were ambushed and killed.

In another grisly incident a Pakistani soldier at a UN feeding centre was pulled in and dismembered by a mob. In Somalia, the UN peace keepers lived in a state of siege by a hostile population. But the Indian brigade in Somalia had reportedly effected a virtual turn around in the tense relations prevailing between the people and the UN peace keeping force in their area.

But in August, seven Indian soldiers and three doctors were killed. General Joshi blamed it on "jealous" elements. The UN Secretary General claimed that he had "never got any such report" from UN sources there. Butrus-Ghali was obviously taken aback when confronted with the Indian Army Chief's statement. According to Ambassador Ansari [Indian UN ambassador] who was here from New York, it had not cropped up in any of the discussions with the Secretary General. The Ministry of External Affairs [MEA] had heard nothing of it from its mission there.

In army circles, there was confusion and dismay. General Joshi's statement went against their personal experience of camaraderie with Pakistani officers at training courses abroad. Moreover, General Joshi's statement hit at the very heart of UN peace keeping or peace enforcing operations which hinged on troops from different countries functioning as an integrated whole. It was countries like the US which had resisted putting their troops under UN command.

In Somalia, the UN force commander is a Malaysian. The Chief of Staff is a Pakistani and so is the clerical staff for UNOSOM [United Nations Operation in Somalia]. The implications of General Joshi's comment are all the more disturbing as India and Pakistan are emerging as among the top suppliers of troops for what Butrus-Ghali describes as second generation peace keeping.

General Joshi's comment was no off-the-cuff remark, it was pre-recorded for the PTI documentary on Somalia. Presumably, the army chief was privy to some intelligence which had not yet been shared with the MEA. Army sources doubt whether the three member team sent to Somalia for a look see after the killing of the 10 Indian peace keepers, came back with such intelligence.

Moreover, it has not deterred the Prime Minister from making a fresh commitment of troops for Rwanda and Haiti for the second phase of the UN's "rehabilitation" operation there. Currently, India has about 5,400 troops in UN colours. France tops the list of countries supplying peace keeping forces. But as Somalia, Yugoslavia and Rwanda have shown, in the new high risk peace keeping type of operations, the industrialised democracies of the first world have little staying power to withstand casualties. "France is the exception", pointed out General Satish Nambiar, former commander of the UN forces in Yugoslavia.

It will be the standing armies of India, Pakistan and Egypt who will be increasingly asked to supply the very large numbers needed for the many calls for UN peacekeeping. As Butrus-Ghali explained the peace keeping operations of the past were structured around an agreed ceasefire. Today, UN blue helmets are sent in where there are no agreements, where governments do not exist or have limited effective authority and well armed warlords do not respect UN "neutrality".

In India, the casualties in Somalia did not produce a knee jerk demand for a pull out. The cynics might add that the Indian army is a professional army. and the jump in allowances for Indian soldiers on UN duty compensate for the risk.

But the decision for India to commit more and more troops for UN activities must eventually be based on what role India sees for itself in international affairs. As former Deputy-Chief, General Nambiar, emphasised, "If we as a nation see India as playing a role in the international system, then we must be willing to fulfil certain commitments. Participating in UN peace keeping operations is one way of doing so," he said. Taking on those who argue that India must participate, only if it is given a seat in the Security Council, he said "that's like putting the cart before the horse."

October 1995, when the General Assembly meets to commemorate the anniversary of the UN, India is unlikely to be given a seat in the expanded Security Council, however far flung may be its peace keeping commitments.

Peace-keeping, today, carries a heavier political burden as it includes restoration of democracy in Haiti and respect for human rights in Rwanda. There is thus need for a sharper assessment of what are Indian interests. It would be dangerously naive to gloss over the political reality of the UN being bullied into serving as a stalking horse for US interests.

A seat in the Security Council would give India a voice. But it will not come for the asking. At least, India can use its leverage as a peace-keeper to get more positions of control.

'Positive Elements' in U.S. Official's Speech Seen

BK2809150494 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 26 Sep 94 p 14

[Article by N.C. Menon in the "News Analysis" column: "Positive Elements in Raphel Speech"]

[Text] Washington, Sept. 25—The keynote address of Assistant Secretary of State, Robin Raphel at the Asia Society seminar on "South Asia and the United States after the cold war" was clearly crafted with a great deal of care to sound positive and to avoid the pitfalls which previous pronouncements by this rather controversial official had opened up.

There are indeed many positive elements in the address, not the least of which is its tone of let-us-begin-anew, on the basis of present realities. There are also welcome references to the increasing importance of the US-South Asia relationship and to "the valuable opportunities for the US in South Asia afforded by the end of the cold war."

There are, however, certain formulations implicit in the address that tend to support the theory of status quo, of things as they were, of the fallacy of viewing Ms. Raphel's "new" formulations with rose-tinted glasses.

For those in South Asia who hopefully deduced from the US decision to grant most-favoured-nation status to China and to delink human rights issues from trade that improving economic relations will tilt the political balance in their favour, Ms. Raphel had a clear message: "Economic relations, one of a group of core components of our relationships in South Asia, cannot be pursued to the exclusion of other key issues, including strengthening of the democratic process, the protection of human rights, or our nonproliferation and narcotics concerns."

"The world has become so interrelated that the security and stability of one country enhance, rather than threaten, that of any other" Ms. Raphel says. That does sound attractive as a piece of political philosophy, but translated to current realities, it can be simplistic. How, for instance, does it work when two countries like India and Pakistan each has long-encrusted feelings that the other is primarily responsible for its lack of security and stability?

No one will quarrel with Ms. Raphel's concept of "building a community of democratic nation states, a community that would draw together progressive Islamic states and secular nations of the region in the common cause of democracy and tolerance." But she carries the concept a step further to the idea of "flexibility within the community to build separate coalitions for solving different issues and problems that do not have universal appeal."

To take a few specific issues: The speech referred to the US commitment to maintain a productive, stable relationship with Pakistan, "a relationship that takes account of the problems of non-proliferation and the Pressler legislation, but which can be built around the many areas of commonality and mutual concern." The Pressler legislation, be it noted, is seen as a problem.

Debt Repayment 'Saga' With Russia Reviewed

BK2909061694 Delhi THE ECONOMIC TIMES in English 23 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] The proposed auction of Indian rupees by Russian authorities is off. Moscow has, moreover gone back on its decision to offer 180-day credit to Russian traders for encouraging imports from India. These two developments have raised a question mark on Russia's ability to utilise the Indian debt.

The proposal to auction rupee was part of Moscow's strategy to make attractive imports from India. It was estimated that the rupee would be sold at a 20-25 percent discount and, at that rate, imports from India would become viable. However, the proposal has now been shelved for unspecified reasons.

During the Indo-Russian join commission meeting in Moscow, a week ago, the commerce minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherji, was informed by the Russian deputy prime minister, Mr. Yuriy Yarov that instead of rupee auctions, interested Russian importers would be asked to give sealed tender stating the terms on which they would like to import goods from India—the discount at which they want rupees as also the credit desired by them.

A tendering committee, under the chairmanship of another deputy prime minister, Mr. Aleksandr Shokhin, has been set up to evaluate the tenders. It will decide case by case and the terms accepted by it will depend on the goods which are sought to be imported. The committee, however, will deal with offers for imports from all countries, not India alone. How fast the Indian debt will, therefore, move under the new arrangement is now a matter of speculation.

Mr. Yarov is believed to have also informed Mr. Mukherji that Russia was not in a position to grant 180-day credit facility to Russian importers. As goods from India take about six months to reach Russia and as Russia is experiencing galloping inflation, Russian traders had been asking for this credit facility.

The request was accepted and the Russian authorities made formal announcement to this effect during the Prime Minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao's visit to Moscow in early July.

However, it now transpires that the Russian foreign ministry is opposed to the credit as it has to fork out a largish subsidy.

Mr. Pranab Mukherji was understandably not amused by the new developments. As a matter of fact, he made plain his displeasure at the joint commission meeting held from September 13-15. At one stage, he is believed to have told his Russian counterpart that instead of enumerating problems it would be better to find ways of solving them.

The immediate impact of these developments is that Russia is unlikely to furnish a three-year perspective plan for the purchase of tea, tobacco and soya meal. India was very keen on this as it would help the Indian farmers to plan their crop, and during Mr. Rao's visit, Russia had agreed to the request. But now, say official sources, Moscow may not be in a position to assess the quantum of purchase of these goods.

While no reason has been given by Moscow as to why the proposal for auctions has been put off, officials here speculate that perhaps the Russian authorities feared the discounts would go higher than the anticipated 20-25 per cent—perhaps as high as 45-50 per cent.

And at that rate, the Russian finance ministry figured that its debt realisation would be half of the actual amount.

The commerce ministry is naturally very upset with the new twist in the debt-repayment saga. If the debt does not move, the trade figures will be that much poorer.

However, the finance ministry is not as anxious because, on its part, it has already allocated the amount to be repayed. There is no interest to be paid on delayed acceptance of the debt amount.

Officials now rule out the possibility of Russia utilising the entire repayment amount this year, which is about Rs [rupees] 3,000 crore. They feel that the current situation is largely due to the economic mess in Russia. And as long as the mess remains, Indo-Russian trade will run into problems.

'Incidents' at Nuclear Plants Reported

BK2609144094 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 24 Sep 94 p 7

[Report by Senthilnathan in Vienna]

[Text] India, one of the first countries to sign the new nuclear safety convention, is reported to have faced at least 24 "incidents" in its nuclear power plants (NPPs) in the last six years.

These had taken place between 1988 and May 1994, according to a database released here by the environmental group Greenpeace, the Austrian Ecological Institute and the Anti-Atom International.

However, Dr. R Chidambaram, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission attending the annual conference here of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said India's view was that nuclear safety had to be taken into account at all nuclear power projects (NPPs). "That is exactly what the nuclear safety convention intends to do," he said. "We are among the first to sign this convention and hope to deposit our instruments of ratification soon," he told the IAEA meeting.

The environment groups, which released the database to coincide with the IAEA meeting, have revealed that the most vulnerable incidents had taken place at the 100 megawatt (mw) unit one reactor of the Rajasthan nuclear power project. It has been the most susceptible, with events ranging from a heavy water leak to an explosion in the turbine generator, they said.

Mr. Antonio Wenisch of the Ecological Institute and author of a report accompanying the database, said the number of incidents in India and elsewhere demonstrated more the availability of information than the number of events that actually occurred.

He said while some countries such as the United States, were more open with providing information about events at their 109 nuclear plants, others like Britain or France were not that open. he said.

The IAEA, as all other nuclear organisations, categorises events at NPPs as either "incidents" or "accidents". The International Nuclear Event Scale (NES), which has been prepared by the IAEA and other international experts, for example, lists events on a table ranging between one and seven. A major accident like the 1986 Chernobyl explosion is categorised as level seven.

According to the database, while the 100 mw pressurised heavy water reactor (PHWR) unit one at Rajasthan NPP and the 160 mw unit one and two in Tarapur are boiling water reactors (BWRs), the 220 mw unit one at the Narora NPP had three events during this period.

One of the incidents that occurred at the first unit of Rajasthan NPP was the spill of four tonnes of heavy water due to a rupture of an inlet hose in the primary heat transport filter on New Year's day of 1992. In fact, according to the database, five of the nine events reported at the unit were related to heavy water leakage.

The latest incident, also at the Rajasthan unit one, was on May 29 this year when there was a shutdown following a leak of heavy water. According to the database, the leak had been reported 18 months ago, but was not repaired because of lack of remote handling tools needed for the task.

At the IAEA meeting, Dr. Chidambaram offered India's expertise on the peaceful exploitation of nuclear technology for other countries. It had developed many high technologies while carrying out basic and applied research, he said.

India was today one of the leading producers of radio isotopes which were used in diverse applications such as treatment of cancer.

The sewage sludge hygienisation research irradiator, for example, had been in operation for the past three years, Dr. Chidambaram said. Using this facility, data had now been generated for possible treatment of effluents as part of the Ganga river action plan, he said.

India's various nuclear institutions are also carrying out research work in gamma ray telescopes, organ imaging systems, laser facilities and biotechnology, he said.

"India is happy to share its knowhow in various peaceful aspects of nuclear technology with other countries either bilaterally or through the agency (IAEA) technical cooperation/assistance programmes," Dr. Chidambaram told the delegates from more than 100 countries.

Under this programme, he said, India had conducted 28 international meetings during the past year-and-a-half and there would be nine more meetings before the end of the year.

According to IAEA officials, 38 countries, 23 of them with at least one operational NPP, had signed the convention. It does not say any specific safety guidelines that the world's 430 NPPs have to adhere to. Instead it is based on a number of existing principles on planning, siting and construction of nuclear plants.

India has nine NPPs in operation and five more are under construction. One of them, located in Kakrapar, is to go critical by next month.

Meanwhile, Pakistan claimed that the threat of nuclear nonproliferation and the emergence of ballistic missile capabilities would create a tense security environment in South Asia.

Mr. Ishfaq Ahmad, leader of the Pakistan delegation, said his country's proposals for a nuclear-free zone and "several alternative suggestion's for equitable and non-discriminatory arrangements for nonproliferation in South Asia are still on the table for consideration".

Cessation of Flights Termed 'Unwarranted'

BK2909045494 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] New Delhi says the cessation of commercial and charter flights by certain countries to India on account of the plague scare is not warranted by circumstances. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said it does not seem that the concerned countries had the benefit of prior consultation with the Indian Ministry of Health on the issue. He hoped that the flights will be resumed as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, Air India has suspended its flights to Dhahran, Jeddah, Riyadh, Kuwait, Bahrain, Doha, and Muscat. An Air India spokesman said in Bombay this follows directives of the government of these countries that no flight will be allowed to operate between India and their countries.

The World Health Organization has said there is no need for anyone to change travel plans to India. However, it said travelers to India should be cautious and follow some rudimentary precautions.

'Some' Unions Strike To Protest Economic Policy

BK2909084994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Several sections of the insurance and banking industry have criticized today's strike called by some trade unions in protest against the new economic policy. The Government Employees National Confederation, affiliated to the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh [Indian Workers Union], has termed the strike as politically motivated. The Karnakata unit of the Indian National Bank Employees Federation has asked its members not to join the strike. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry has said the strike would give a wrong signal to prospective investors. The Indian Banks Association said the apprehensions about the alleged privatization of banks have already been allayed by the government. The association also did not see any merit in the demand for an early wage revision in the banking sector.

In Tamil Nadu, the authorities have ordered the closure of all government schools and colleges today in view of the strike. However, state government offices will function. Gujarat has been exempted from the strike in view of the plague epidemic in Surat.

In West Bengal, the left parties have called for a 24-hour statewide bundh [strike]. All India Radio Calcutta correspondent reports that vehicular traffic, particularly public transport, is off the road. Train services in eastern and southeastern railways have been disrupted following squatting on the tracks by the bundh supporters. Indian Airlines has canceled all flights to and from Calcutta. The Assam government has warned its employees against abstaining from official duties today.

State Civil Supplies Minister Resigns

BK2909092594 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] The minister of state for civil supplies, Mr. Kamaluddin Ahmed, has submitted his resignation from the Union Council of Ministers following his appointment as president of the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee with immediate effect. The vacancy was caused by the death of Manjhi Tulsi Das.

The general secretary of the party, Mr. Janardhana Poojary, who is also in charge of Andhra Pradesh, announced that this has been done in accordance with the decision of the CWC [Congress Working Committee] by the Congress president, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao.

Congress-I Wins 'Thumping Majority' in Punjab

BK2809045294 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] In Punjab, the Congress-I has secured a thumping majority in the first phase of elections to panchayat samitis and zila parishads [village and district-level councils]. According to agency reports, the party has secured majority in all the seven districts where results were declared yesterday. Out of the total 719 results declared so far, the party has bagged 499 seats.

18 Bihar Districts To Have Autonomous Council

BK2709135694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Text] The decks have been cleared for creation of Jharkhand Area Autonomous Council. The minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, and the Bihar chief minister signed an agreed statement in New Delhi last night. The proposed council will comprise 18 districts of Bihar. It will have a 15-member executive council. The chief executive councillor will be from the tribal community only. The agreed statement said the autonomous council will have executive powers on 40 departments, including agriculture, mines and minerals, public work, (?social) development, and public health. It will have a separate fund, and at least 25 percent of the state plan budget will be earmarked to it. Our correspondent said the state governor will be vested with the authority of settling any question of interpretation of the agreement in consultation with the chief minister and the chief executive councillor.

The prime minister has welcomed the initiative. Mr. Narasimha Rao said it will go a long way in promoting rapid social-economic development of the area.

More AIR Transmitters Commissioned at Bangalore

BK2909093194 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1630 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Another four 500-kilowatt shortwave transmitters were commissioned today at the Bangalore high-power transmission complex of the All India Radio [AIR]. These will enable the complex to broadcast 15 foreign, four Indian, and five general overseas services, covering distant target areas. A report from our Bangalore correspondent:

[Begin Gayatri Chandrasekhar recording] One of the biggest transmitting centers in Asia, the state-of-the-art Doddaballapur complex consists of six numbers of extremely high-power 500-kilowatt shortwave transmitters and 36 multiband aerial (?curtain) spread over an area of 630 acres. The project has cost 76 crore rupees. Four of the transmitters were commissioned today by Mr. H.M. Joshi, engineer in chief of AIR. Transmissions from here will be around- the-clock in several Indian and foreign languages, reaching Europe; North, Central, and South African regions; Australia; Japan; China; and eastern Asian and several other nations. There is an interesting mix of music, play, news and current affairs, talks, and special interest programs. Two of the six transmitters at this center were commissioned in 1990 in the first phase of the project. An initial survey revealed that program reception is good in many countries. Speaking to reporters, the AIR official said that the FM station for Bijapur, Karnakata, will be commissioned during the current financial year. [end recording]

Iran

Foreign Minister Holds Meetings in New York

Meets Azerbaijani, Bosnian Leaders

NC2909081594 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati met the presidents of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Azerbaijan yesterday on the sidelines of the 49th UN General Assembly session.

In his meeting with Izetbegovic, Velayati explained the diplomatic efforts on the part of the Islamic Republic of Iran to end the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina and reiterated Iran's willingness to send volunteer forces to Bosnia-Herzegovina as a peace-keeping force under the UN flag.

The president of Bosnia-Herzegovina conveyed his appreciation of the diplomatic efforts and the deep cooperation of the Iranian nation with the Bosnian people and expressed his regret at the UN Security Council's indifference to the problems in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Dr. Velayati met Geydar Aliyev, the Azerbaijani president, in New York and discussed regional issues of mutual interest. According to our correspondent in New York, during this meeting, Geydar Aliyev conveyed his warmest greetings to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and described the relations between the two countries as sincere and cordial.

Expressing his pleasure at the broadening of relations between Iran and Azerbaijan, Aliyev expressed the hope that he could visit Iran in the near future. During this meeting, the need for resolving the differences between Azerbaijan and Armenia on the Nagorno-Karabakh issue was stressed.

Dr. Velayati also met the foreign ministers of Turkey and Pakistan in New York last night and discussed the issues of joint insurance and shipping companies, and a bank in the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] in the member countries.

Discusses Cooperation With EU

NC2909081894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati held a meeting with some foreign ministers of the European Union [EU] in New York this morning, according to Tehran time, and discussed the bilateral cooperation between a united Europe and the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] and assessed regional and international issues.

According to our correspondent in New York, during this meeting, the German foreign minister, who is the head of the EU, described the Islamic Republic of Iran as a regional power. In this session, at which the foreign ministers of Greece and France were also present, economic cooperation between the ECO and EU, and the military embargo against Bosnia-Herzegovina were also appraised. Dr. Velayati stressed to the foreign ministers of Greece, Germany, and France that self-defense is the natural right of the Bosnian Muslims and the international community should either support the Bosnian nation's independence or should permit them to carry out their legitimate defense.

In the course of this session, our foreign minister stressed the rights of the Muslims in European countries and said: While religious minorities are enjoying complete freedom, Muslims in some European countries are facing problems in upholding their ideological values. He added: Most European governments do not permit them to avail themselves of their natural rights. [passage omitted]

Reports on ECO Activities, Plans

LD2909091394 Tehran IRNA in English 0837 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] United Nations, New York, Sept. 29, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Wednesday underlined the role of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) as a regional body for economic growth of the member countries and consolidation of regional peace and stability.

Velayati who is the rotating chairman of the ECO ministerial council in his report on the activities of the organization reminded the necessity of establishing and reinforcing the body's ties with international and regional organizations.

He said that the secretary general of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) is scheduled to visit Tehran in a near future on the invitation of the Islamic Republic of Iran to investigate ways to upgrade cooperation between the two bodies.

Velayati said that during a meeting with three foreign ministers of the European Union [EU] (those of Greece, Germany and France), the past, present and future chairmen of the European Union, on Tuesday, preliminary arrrangements were made on the establishment of regular contacts between the ECO and the EU.

The two sides agreed to begin negotiations between the officials of the two bodies in order to hold the joint meeting of the foreign ministers of the member countries during the U.N. General Assembly next year, if possible.

The rotating chairman of the European Union, German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel welcomed ECO-EU cooperation.

Turning to the ECO cooperation with other regional organizations, Velayati said that the body was cooperating with the Islamic Development Bank, United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

A letter of understanding is to be signed between the ECO and the Organization of Islamic Conference (ECO) [as received], he said adding, a similar agreement will be concluded between ECO and the United Nations Population Fund (UNPF).

Velayati said that the ECO aviation organization will start its official activities in a near future after the signing of its charter. Also the ECO shipping lines is to begin activities by the end of January 1995. Some of the member countries including Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Iran have so far signed the documents on the establishment of ECO shipping line and some others like Turkey and Azerbaijan are probing it, he said.

Velayati said that the cultural institute of the ECO is to resume activities after 17 years, and added that its headquarters will be in Tehran. The institute was endorsed as one of the specialized agencies of the ECO in the Istanbul summit meeting on July 93. He called on the member countries to cooperate in reactivating the activities of the institute.

Velayati termed the negotiations of the ECO railways directors in Tehran and the successful holding of the first math Olympiad in Tehran among the activities of this organization during the rotating chairmanship of Iran.

The foreign minister called on the member countries to take the necessary measures to accelerate solving of the present problems and to materialize two important projects, that is, the development and trade bank and ECO insurance company. He reminded that negotiations have not progressed in this connection so far.

Turning to the seminar to strengthen the efficiency of ECO to be held in Tehran in March 1995, he called on the member countries to participate in the seminar actively.

Secretary general of the ECO, Shemshad Ahmad Khan gave a report of the activities of the ECO secretariat during the past eight months and the measures taken for holding the forthcoming ECO summit meeting in Islamabad on March 13-15. Shemshad Ahmad Khan also praised Velayati's efforts as the rotating chairman of the ECO for strengthening the role and status of the organization in regional economic cooperation.

Atomic Energy Authority Rejects U.S. Allegations

LD2809201494 Tehran IRNA in English 1938 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sep 28, IRNA—Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) here Wednesday rejected allegations by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) claiming that Iran is about to produce atomic bombs by the next decade.

Interviewed by IRNA, AEOI's spokesman Ali Shirzadian said that by dissemination of such fake news, the U.S. mass media wants to divert world's public opinion from illegal nuclear activities of the Zionist regime.

At the same time that Washington raises the issue of production of nuclear weapons by Iran, the Zionist regime receiving assistance from the U.S. has became a serious nuclear threat in the region and the world, Shirzadian said. He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has proposed a plan to comprehensively declare the Middle East region as a nuclear-weapons-free-zone (NWFZ) and that Tehran is not in quest of nuclear weapons. Shirzadian underlined that Iran's nuclear activities has been focused on peaceful utilization of nuclear energy.

CIA's chief on September 26 said that Washington is convinced that Iran can produce atomic weapons by the next eight or ten years and that Iran wants to acquire a manufactured atomic bomb.

Shirzadian added that high-ranking officials and inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have visited Iran's nuclear facilities twice and confimred that Iran's nuclear program is for peaceful purposes.

The U.S. Administration which disapproves of the right to peaceful utilization of nuclear energy by the developing countries occasionally disseminates such fabrications, the spokesman said.

The Americans continously have claimed in the past 15 years that Iran is to obtain nuclear weapons within five years but these five-year periods have passed and yet, Shirzadian added, the American claims have not been vindicated.

Military experts hold the view that Washington by spreading such fake news wants to urge the regional countries to purchase more weapons and enter into an arms race to salvage the U.S. ailing economy.

Ministry Condemns Release of Israeli Radical

LD2809202694 Tehran IRIB Television Third Program Network in English 1915 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Following the Zionist regime's release of the leader of the terrorist Kakh group, Barukh Marzel, an Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman condemned the measure. He said the release of Marzel, who had been arrested and jailed during the siege of the al-Khalil [Hebron] mosque, is an obvious sign of the Zionist regime's direct interference in the massacre at the mosque. He said the release of a person who has been charged with the murder of dozens of innocent worshippers is yet another sign of the Zionist regime's indifference toward international regulations and of the international public who have not yet managed to forget the bitter memory of that incident. He went on to say the Zionist regime is making it known to everyone that it is not the least concerned about the rights of the real owners of Palestine.

Official Says 15,000 POWs in 'Secret' Iraqi Camps

LD2809162394 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] According to existing evidence, there are more than 15,000 Iranian POWs are in secret Iraqi camps at the moment whom the Iraqi Government refuses to hand over.

According to the head of the commission for POWs, Mr. Nazaran, all through the war negotiations and the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598, the Islamic Republic of Iran tried to compel the Iraqi regime to hand over the POWs. But that regime has refused any sincere cooperation and registration of the POWs.

Referring to the inaccuracy of figures from unofficial sources, he pointed out that as long as even one Iranian POW remains in Iraq the commission will continue its efforts for his return.

Mr. Nazaran said: If the Iraqi Government is sincere in its claims why did it violate the 1370 [Iranian year beginning 21 March 1991] Geneva agreement, and why does it not cooperate with the joint committee for the discovery of the war dead? He added: We openly inform Iraq that we are ready to release one Iraqi POW for every Iranian POW released, under the supervision of the International Red Cross.

Moscow Embassy Denies Religious, Sectarian Strife

LD2809222294 Tehran IRNA in English 2205 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Moscow, 28 Sep (IRNA)—Iranian Embassy here rejected a false claim published in a Moscow's newspaper (?SEGODNYA) saying that ethnic and sectarian disputes are prevalent in Iran.

The Iranian Embassy last Monday through a letter objected to the editorial of the (?SEGODNYA) over an (?article) published in its last week's issue saying ethnic and religious clashes are going on in Iran.

The letter of protest has stressed that the massive and active representation of all the religions and ethnic groups in Iranian Majles showed the clear and recognized status of the existing religions and ethnic groups in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The letter also noted that the statistics of the ethnic and sectarian disputes in the region and among the Iranian neighboring countries showed that Iran from the point of view of ethnic and sectarian problems is faring better than all other countries in the region.

It also said that the late Imam Khomeyni and other Iranian authorities always stressed on the unity and brotherly attitude among the Muslim sects because they believed the Muslims did not have any excuse to talk of ethnic and sectarian disputes.

Presence of representatives of differrent Iranian religions and ethnic groups in the Iranian Majles, the minorities' freedom in observing their religious affairs, teaching ceremonies and traditions in private schools of minorities, freedom granted by the constitution to the official religions of Iran and above all the Islamic teachings regarding the Islamic brotherhood show that there is no ethnic or religious disputes in Iran, the letter mentioned.

Arab Policy, Options on Islands Said Under Review

MM2809161994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Sep 94 p 4

[Report by Amir Taheri: "Tehran Reconsiders Its Arab Policy and Speaks of Military Option in Connection With Islands Issue"]

[Text] Tehran, London—Iran is reconsidering its Arab policy, with two areas in mind. The first is based on improved relations with a number of states and the second on preparation for confrontation that, as Tehran has been hinting, could reach the point of recourse to the military option in dealing with an issue such as that of the three United Arab Emirates [UAE] islands of Abu-Musa, Tunb al-Kubra, and Tunb al-Sughra. In the course of that policy revision Tehran will try to redraw the map of the region's alliances.

According to informed sources in Tehran, the new policy will be partly reflected at the meetings Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati is expected to hold with a number of Arab foreign ministers in New York in the coming few days.

In accordance with the new policy, Iran will try hard to improve its relations with Baghdad and Cairo. Velayati hopes to hold important talks with the Egyptian and Iraqi ministers. Iran had early this month called for an end to the sanctions imposed against Iraq since 1990, and there has been a marked increase in trade between Iraq and Iran over the past 18 months.

Iran imports about 35,000 barrels of Iraqi crude oil a day for the Kermanshah refinery. It was Iran that took the initiative last month in opposing the establishment of a Kurdish state in northern Iraq, a position supported by Turkey and Syria in a joint statement. The Iranian analysis is that President Saddam Husayn's regime has passed the danger point and is likely to survive several more years, and also that Saddam Husayn would be unable or unwilling to lead Iraq into an alliance with the moderate Arab states and the West. As regards Egypt, Iranian analysts believe that President Husni Mubarak's government "has decisively triumphed" in its battle against the extremists and will, therefore, most probably wield more influence on regional affairs, particularly when Syria and Jordan sign a peace treaty with Israel.

Syria, once a close ally of Iran, is viewed by Tehran with suspicion as President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership now turns toward rapprochement with the United States. The close links between Iran and Syria will continue, especially on issues related to Lebanon, but the special relations of the eighties are a thing of the past, according to analysts in Tehran. In accordance with the new policy, Iran is expected to distance itself from Sudan and Libya because it is beginning to see them "as unstable regimes" by nature.

There is evidence that Tehran's relations with Khartoum have been cool for a whole year now. Early this month

Iran called for special talks on the repayment of a $300-million Iranian loan to Sudan. A large part of that sum was repaid under the regime of former President Ja'far Numayri.

As regards Libya, Iran sent a low-level delegation to the celebrations marking the 25th anniversary of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's seizure of power.

In North Africa, Iran will now try to develop closer relations with Morocco. Algeria, considered previously to be a close ally of Iran, is, in Tehran's view, about to witness dramatic changes. Tehran clearly believes that an extremist regime will assume power in Algeria some time next year. If that happens, the Iranian "revolution," which has recently been fading, might be rejuvenated. In a recent speech, Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani expected Algeria "soon" to become the second state after Iran to have a fundamentalist regime.

According to Iranian analysts, relations with the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] could "enter a stormy phase" which could even lead to "a form of military conflict."

The main cause of the tension is the three Gulf islands. The UAE is determined to regain these islands. In recent weeks it has raised the possibility of referring the conflict to the International Court of Justice in the Hague. The issue might also be raised at the UN General Assembly session which begins today.

The new Iranian military doctrine is clearly focused on what is described as "the military confrontation in the Gulf." Iran has just completed a series of exercises in preparation for a hypothetical assault on the islands. Analysts in Tehran are betting on Qatar breaking the Gulf's unity of ranks. Iranian analysts believe that there is also another state whose position is lukewarm on full confrontation.

The new Iranian analysis of the prospects for relations with the Arab states was prepared with the participation of a number of Iranian and Arab intellectuals who sympathize with the Iranian Government. What is not clear is whether or not the various factions within the Iranian establishment are capable of coordinating their steps to reflect that new analysis.

West Said Encouraging Conflict on Islands

NC2809203394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Unattributed "political talk"]

[Text] Diplomatic visits to the region by Western emissaries seem close to realizing their objectives and Western news media are discharging their venom toward a new form of psychological war to create a state of uncertainty among the region's oil-rich countries and frighten them into buying new weapons, thus depleting their financial resources.

The old claims of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] to the Iranian island of Abu-Musa is the main substance of these media campaigns. Perhaps the UAE is not aware of the real intentions of the Western media, but it will gradually discover the secret hands that are trying to sow discord and sedition in the region. It is surprising that Egypt, the United States, and Britain should be eager to repeat these old UAE claims. The Gulf Cooperation Council has recently joined the club.

The owners of the major arms industries in the West are now betting on the promotion of these allegations to sell more weapons and equipment. Rumors and misleading Western media reports speak of possible armed confrontation over the UAE claims. The government-controlled British radio, BBC, alleged that the language of the dispute between Iran and the UAE has been escalated and that a military clash is now possible. The French news agency, for its part, made similar suggestions and said Iran's tone recently became sharper than before and that Iran is talking about a military option.

This Western media campaign is aimed at intimidating and terrifying the UAE officials. It is also aimed at justifying the military presence of the Satanic forces in the region, suggesting to the Gulf shaykhs that they cannot run their own affairs and that they need others to guide them. Consequently, there is need for them to buy Western weapons to preserve their existence. These are the objectives of the new psychological war being promoted by the West in the region.

New Kuwaiti Envoy Hopes To Expand Relations

LD2809160394 Tehran IRNA in English 1550 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, 28 Sep (IRNA)—The newly-appointed Kuwaiti ambassador to Tehran, 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abdallah al-Duwaikh, said here on Wednesday that relations between Iran and Kuwait is very friendly and he will do his best to further expand the existing relations.

Speaking to IRNA upon arrival in Tehran, he said that Kuwaiti officials regard Iran-Kuwait relations as excellent and are willing to enhance the level of bilateral relations as well as Iran's relations with the member nations of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (PGCC).

Al-Duwaikh said that relations between Iran and Kuwait enjoy a historical background and the current diplomatic shuttles between the two countries are in line with the mutual efforts to broaden relations in political and political areas.

The Kuwaiti diplomat lauded Iran's stance in the course of the Iraqi invasion in 1991 and expressed hope that the two countries will cooperate to secure release of their war prisoners from Iraq.

On trade and economic relations between the two countries, he said that his country is interested in having a large-scale trade cooperation with Iran. The Kuwaiti diplomat added that the presence of Kuwaiti trade delegation headed by the deputy minister of commerce in Tehran and Kuwait's participation in the forthcoming Tehran international trade fair are indications of Kuwait's practical steps in this respect.

Turkey's Approach on Regional Problems Viewed

NC2809191794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 27 Sep 94

[Unattributed commentary: "Turkish Foreign Minister Mumtaz Soysal's Approach on Regional Problems"]

[Text] Turkish Foreign Minister Mumtaz Soysal was interviewed on one of Turkey's television networks on 26 September. He outlined his approach on various regional problems and argued that the outcome of the sanctions against Iraq conflicted with the expectations that existed at the time the UN Security Council adopted a resolution to impose an embargo against Baghdad. Stressing that the policy of continuing the embargo is wrong, Soysal called for lifting the sanctions against Iraq. Furthermore, he reiterated his opposition to the presence of the allied air force units in Turkey. It will be recalled that the allied air force units are headed by the United States.

The Turkish media organs have described Soysal's policies as an honorable approach. However, his views have created problems in Turkey's relations with foreign countries, particularly the United States. Apparently, certain political circles have been seriously worried by the developments in northern Iraq and the way the Hammer Force units in Turkey have given a direction to them. Meanwhile, the meeting that was held in Paris by the representatives of the Kurdish political parties in northern Iraq in July, in which the representatives of the United States, Britain, and France also took part, made the Ankara Government feel uneasy. Therefore, Soysal's recent statements on the possibility of the withdrawal of the allied forces from Turkey should be assessed in light of all that. According to Soysal, who favors the improvement of Ankara's relations with Baghdad, the presence of the allied forces in Turkey not only impedes the effort that is being made to have Iraq's unity and territorial integrity maintained but also threatens Turkey's national security. Apparently, Soysal is convinced that the presence of the allied forces is an obstacle to the improvement of Ankara's relations with Baghdad.

It is a fact that the economic loss Turkey has suffered as a result of the embargo against Iraq and the need to strengthen Baghdad against the separatist activities of the Kurds in northern Iraq are the main reasons for Ankara's wish to establish close relations with Iraq and the other countries in the region.

Considering all that, and the differing views between Turkey and the Western countries, particularly the United States, the possibility that tension between Ankara and the Western capitals may worsen cannot be ignored.

U.K. Urged To Reform Policy

LD2809211394 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. Velayati, who is in New York to take part in the UN General Assembly, met with a number of countries' foreign ministers including those of Pakistan, Indonesia, Thailand, and Britain.

The foreign ministers of Iran and Britain met on Tuesday 27 September at the UN Headquarters and discussed their views on bilateral ties and ways of removing obstacles on the expansion of relations.

Dr. Velayati criticized the biased attitude of some of the Western countries, including Britain, towards terrorism. Mr. Velayati's reference to terrorism is indicative of the fact that the British Government not only helped the counterrevolutionary terrorists, but she also played an important role in the propaganda campaign waged by imperialism and Zionism against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

British Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd has reportedly said Iran is an important country and Britain is willing to boost relations with Tehran. British foreign minister stated that his country is not after waging a political campaign against Iran, but there are some problems on the way of enhancement of ties.

Iran is aware of the existing problems, but also knows that these problems stem from the policies and performances of the British Government.

Britain is now facing a dilemma. She should either choose expansion of ties with Iran, or continue the political war against the country. Britain's dependent policy and her passive reaction to the U.S. and Israel's demands have caused deterioration of relations between Tehran and London. This passive policy has even turned Britain into a dependent country.

Britain, for years, ignored Iraq's invasion of Iran and is now backing up the groups whose inhuman and terrorist measures are quite clear for the Iranian people.

Regarding these issues, Britain should consider a major reform in her policies towards Iran, necessary if she desires promotion of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Ne'matzadeh Nominated as Industries Minister

LD2809141594 Tehran IRNA in English 1341 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a letter to the Majles on Wednesday proposed Mohammad Reza Ne'matzadeh as the minister for the newly-established Industries Ministry.

In the letter which was read in the open session of the Majles, the president underlined eligibility of Ne'matzadeh for taking charge of the new ministry.

Following a decision by the Majles on September 13, the two ministries of industries and heavy industries were merged and instead the Ministry of Industries was established in accordance with Article 133 of the Constitution.

Pakistan

Foreign Minister Meets Silajdzic, Others at UN

BK2809054894 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] At the United Nations, Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali yesterday held separate meetings with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, discussing bilateral relations and regional and international issues.

The foreign minister also met his counterparts from Iran, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Libya, Slovenia, Sudan, and Canada and briefed them on the latest situation in occupied Kashmir and the atrocities being committed by the Indian forces there. He appealed to the international community to pressure India to help stop human rights violations and repression in occupied Kashmir. He pointed out that the Jammu and Kashmir dispute cannot be resolved without international mediation.

During his meeting with the Bosnian prime minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali reaffirmed Pakistan's full support for the people of Bosnia. The foreign minister expressed disappointment over the partial lifting of sanctions against Serbia. Silajdzic briefed him on the latest situation in Bosnia.

Nonessential Staff Recalled From Embassy in Kabul

BK2909111694 Karachi DAWN in English 29 Sep 94 p 16

[Text] Islamabad, Sept 28—Pakistan on Wednesday said it was recalling all the non-essential staff at its mission in Kabul, at the same time empowering the Charge d'Affaires to immediately pull out should the heavy fighting currently raging between the two Shia factions put the Pakistani personnel at risk.

"We are constantly monitoring the situation in Kabul and have asked the non-essential staff to evacuate immediately, a senior official of the Foreign Office told "DAWN". [quotation marks as published] He said that the Charge d'Affaires, Sardar Tariq Azizuddin, who had a miraculous escape from death two weeks ago when his car got hit by a rocket, has been "empowered to pull our from Kabul whenever he thinks that there is a dire risk to his life," said the official.

The Pakistani Embassy at Kabul is in the "direct firing range", of the two fighting factions who seem to be firing rockets and missiles in a "free-for-all" battle, engulfing the embassy in their bitter feud. "Since their rocket fire is not of high precision, there is a possibility of stray rockets hitting our embassy," said the official, "as it happened on Tuesday, when six rockets landed in the periphery of the Pakistani mission, while the seventh hit the outer wall of the embassy building shattering window panes and damaging the ceiling of the chancery," he said.

Air, Rail Links With India Suspended Due to Plague

BK2909114094 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 29 Sep 94

[Text] Pakistan is suspending immediately all air and rail links with India in view of the outbreak of pneumonic plague in certain parts of that country. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that all flights from and to India, including those of the foreign airlines, are being suspended immediately. Similarly, the Delhi-Lahore train—the Samjhota Express—has been suspended.

Editorial Criticizes U.S. Kashmir Proposal

BK2809145594 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 26 Sep 94 p 10

[Editorial: "Multigeographic Government in Kashmir—New U.S. Proposal"]

[Text] Addressing a symposium organized by the Asia Society, Robin Raphel, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for South Asia, has said that Kashmir is a complex problem that cannot be resolved under a single guiding principle. She suggested that a solution to the Kashmir problem should be found in accordance with the requirements of the Kashmiri people and the nature of India-Pakistan relations. A government should be formed at the state and national level, which should be answerable to the people and should be multigeographic. [preceding word in English, sentence as published]

After becoming the sole superpower, the United States took as its mission to help resolve disputes in various parts of the world, but instead of resolving them according to their respective importance and gravity, this global policeman has presented a global agenda of settling disputes in a way that will serve its own needs and objectives. That is why the sole superpower has not done anything yet to stop the worst repression and the genocide against Muslims in Bosnia. Even though successive U.S. governments have claimed to be champions of human rights, the U.S. troops have landed in Haiti to facilitate a change of government there.

Washington has also not received any divine guidance yet to adopt a clear-cut stand against the reign of terror let loose by India in occupied Kashmir, where New Delhi has deployed 600,000 troops. Last year, the U.S. also tried to designate the Kashmiri people and freedom fighters resisting the Indian forces as terrorists to placate India. Washington also attempted to declare Pakistan a supporter of terrorists for its only crime of providing moral support to the Kashmiri freedom fighters. That attempt failed for obvious reasons.

The Kashmir issue has remained on the agenda of the United Nations for the past 46 years, and the UN resolutions have also been proposed to resolve it. The UN Security Council not only recognized the principle for the division of states, adopted at the time of the partition of the Indian subcontinent, but it also accepted the responsibility to conduct a plebiscite under its supervision according to that principle. The Kashmiri people's current struggle is also directed toward achieving that end, and the whole world knows what they want. In fact, a plebiscite in occupied Kashmir will merely be a procedural exercise because the Kashmiri people openly talk of Kashmir's accession to Pakistan, and India has not been able to change their view even by deploying 600,000 troops in occupied Kashmir. This is why India has been creating obstacles to a plebiscite. The United States has been supporting the demand for a plebiscite in Kashmir according to the relevant UN resolutions for years, but ever since India sought refuge in its lap and expectations arose about a big market falling into its hands, Washington has forgotten these resolutions and started suggesting new solutions and new options.

The Pakistani and the Kashmiri people have had doubts from the very beginning that the U.S. interest in Kashmir is limited only to ensuring an autonomous status for Kashmir without displeasing India—and even by lessening its difficulties—to eliminate Pakistan's claim over the territory and to use it as its new base for hatching conspiracies against China.

The Kashmir problem has become fully known to the international community in the wake of the movement for freedom from Indian occupation and accession to Pakistan launched by the Kashmiri people with renewed zeal and vigor, and India's brutalities are no longer hidden from the world. The champion of human rights, the United States and other countries, however, cannot see the atrocities being committed in occupied Kashmir and are ignoring even the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri people. They are, in fact, trying to use the indigenously started movement of the Kashmiri freedom fighters to realize their own objectives.

For the last three to four years, the United States has been trying to convince the Kashmiri leadership and Pakistan that since the UN resolutions on Kashmir have now become irrelevant, a solution needs to be found that is also acceptable to India. They have been maintaining that India will not accept the proposal for Kashmir's accession to Pakistan at any cost, because it would break India into pieces. The same logic can be applied to a sovereign Kashmir: If India accepts the autonomy of the Kashmir Valley, more than 50 [number as published] of its states will declare their independence and New Delhi will be forced to accept that. Previously, the U.S. authorities used to say this in an ambiguous manner, but since the signs of weakness in our foreign policy became gradually visible and we started to adopt an apologetic attitude toward our basic stand, the United States started to suggest arbitrary solutions to the Kashmir problem; and now the U.S. assistant secretary of state has given expression to Washington's desire by proposing the formation of a "multigeographic government."

The idea of a multigeographic government not only goes against the struggle of the Kashmiris, it also invalidates the UN resolutions. More importantly, there is no guarantee for maintaining an international border between India and Pakistan, which is natural and essential between two independent and sovereign states. This is so because in Robin Raphel's own view, ideas and conditions need to be promoted across the border in a manner that can meet the needs of the Kashmiri people and also of Pakistan and India.

Since the United States wants to help resolve the Kashmir dispute to end tension and to lessen India's difficulties—which is no secret now—every Pakistani will view Robin Raphel's suggestion with doubts and suspicion. In the backdrop of the U.S. desire to make India a great power [preceding two words in English] and to control the region through it, Raphel's proposal only means that the Clinton administration wants to set up a kind of government in Kashmir—keeping in view India's convenience and its own international agenda—which may not meet the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri people, but may help in promoting ideas and conditions along the India-Pakistan border that may fulfill the needs of the two countries and those of a new autonomous state. These needs can be seen in the light of the new world order described by the United States and a world trade order. Washington's recent economic favors to Pakistan may be tied to this.

Therefore, the Pakistani nation and its rulers must remain vigilant and must not accept any solution to the Kashmir problem, which takes care of the U.S. needs more than of our own national interests and the wishes and aspirations of the Kashmiri people. We must not accept an agreement that has been prepared with India's convenience in view. The only solution to the Kashmir problem is through a plebiscite in accordance with the UN resolutions. If changing the government in Haiti through undemocratic means constitutes the violation of the norms of the new world order, then how can India's military occupation and repression against the wishes and democratic opinion of the 10 million people of Kashmir be considered justifiable? How can a solution be imposed by ignoring the Kashmiri people, which may cause new problems in the region? How can the United States, after all, fulfill its desire to end regional tension without accepting this basic fact? Recognizing the encouragement that Washington has received by hijacking the Palestinian people's movement for freedom, we as a nation must oppose the proposals it comes up with every now and then.

U.S Accused of 'Hegemonic Designs'

BK2909075394 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 28 sep 94 p 10

[Editorial: "The United States, the Kashmir Issue, and Our National Responsibility"]

[Text] Addressing the UN General Assembly's 49th session, U.S. President Bill Clinton has said that we should further accelerate efforts to establish peace in the world, work for the promotion of democracy, and support civilian governments. The U.S. President stressed the need for resolving global disputes. Referring to Bosnia, Haiti, Rwanda, the Middle East, and Ireland, etc., he said that we need to make the world a citadel of peace. The U.S. President denied that his country wants to play the role of the world's policeman.

If we compare President Clinton's words and deeds, the contradiction becomes evident even to a layman. Explanations of and resolutions for disputes are sought according to U.S. perceptions, in total disregard of the sufferings and difficulties of nations and countries. The same applies to the U.S. claim for its support of democracy. It was the United States itself which was at the forefront in patronizing the monarchy in Iran, Pakistan's Ayub Khan, and then the martial law regime of General Ziaul Haq. However, now, when democracy has been restored, the United States has imposed restrictions on this country.

Take the case of Palestine. The United States cannot claim the credit for resolving such a serious dispute by merely granting municipal rights to the Palestinians, nor can it claim credit for restoring democracy there. Rwanda and Bosnia are under the grip of famine, hunger, poverty, killing, and looting. The United States cannot justify its claim by citing these examples. The irony is that the U.S. President in his General Assembly speech did not even mention Kashmir. The reason for this is that he was not willing to annoy the god of peace, India. One can ask the United States whether the administrative system India is pursuing in occupied Kashmir can be cited as an example of democracy. The UN secretary general in his report mentioned the Kashmir dispute, but President Clinton could not.

Besides complaining against the United States, we should review our performance as well and find out how far our efforts regarding Kashmir are serious and sincere. The present government is to send a delegation to the current session of the General Assembly which has been entrusted with raising the Kashmir issue. Since the government has unilaterally withdrawn the Kashmir issue twice at two international fora—late last year and early this year—it will be futile to pin any hopes on the delegation to the General Assembly.

Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sardar Abdul Qayyum Khan has made an interesting but impractical proposal that opposition leader Nawaz Sharif should be invited to lead the delegation to the UN General Assembly. India appointed the Indian opposition leader to lead its delegation at the Geneva human rights commission session. The entire Indian opposition gave assurances of its support for Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao during his visit to Washington so he could take a bold stand before the Americans. In our country, however, there is a chaotic situation in which the government and the opposition are unwilling to even accept each other's existence. Given this situation, how are we going to get the Kashmir issue resolved at a global forum?

Undoubtedly, it is the duty of the government to take the first step in creating a national consensus on the Kashmir issue. Our politicians should know that the father of our nation, Jinnah, described Kashmir as the jugular vein of Pakistan. No one should question its authenticity. India is baffled by the success of the freedom movement in Kashmir and it has announced the deployment of Prithvi missiles along Pakistan's border. According to President Leghari, only Quetta city is safe from the Indian missile, while the rest of Pakistan is exposed to it.

What we fear is that India might embark on an adventure against Pakistan to cover up its weaknesses in Kashmir. Therefore, we should not allow any laxity in our defense preparations and should present the Kashmir issue at world fora with logical arguments so as to enable the Kashmiris to exercise their right to self-determination in accordance with the UN resolutions in a free and impartial plebiscite and declare their decision to merge with Pakistan.

Pakistan cannot depend on the United States in this regard, because, with the exception of the seizure of Kuwait, it has not so far resolved any disputes relating to Muslims. If one thinks of Afghanistan, then one should also remember that, after the Russian withdrawal and defeat, the United States lost interest in Afghanistan and the country is still reeling from a bloodbath as before. The U.S. President claims that they are not the world's policeman. However, his desire as reflected by his deeds is that not even a leaf should move without his consent. The Islamic world should forge unity in its ranks. The idea that "Muslims should unite" should be materialized to thwart the American hegemonic designs.

Nawaz Sharif Said Banned From Sind for 'Safety'

BK2909061994 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 28 Sep 94

[Text] The Senate today referred to the privilege committee a privilege motion on Sind government's ban on the entry of the leader of the opposition [Nawaz Sharif] and Senator Ajmal Khattak in the province. The motion was separately moved by professor Khurshid and Chaudhary Mohammad Anwar Bhinder. Federal Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Syed Iqbal Haider did not oppose the motion.

Speaking on the motion, Syed Iqbal Haider, however said the entry of the opposition leaders was banned in Sind as a preventive measure. The Sind government, he added, had informed that the ban was essential for the personal security of these leaders. He said the government has no intention to stop the opposition to hold protest rallies. The law minister observed that the privilege motion does not constitute acquiescence of the breach of privilege of the House. However, he said, let the House committee decide whether or not the privilege was breached.

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